王仁慘死

岩亡蜂苦

No.5

vol. 2

By Taiyo Matsumoto

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•New Mammal Species

LIONSHEEP

*Population limited to 6000

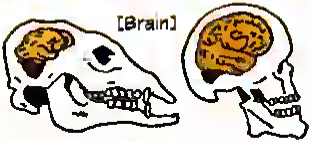
As far as new species go, the lionsheep have a fairly long history, invented by Doctor Mark Peterson 500 years ago. They inhabit a wide variety of regions, from steep hills to high mountain ranges to the Norodo Prairie

▼ Male: Aggressive nature, unsuitable for livestock

▼ Female: Smaller than the male and maneless

▲Infant. Brown-spotted

[Brain]

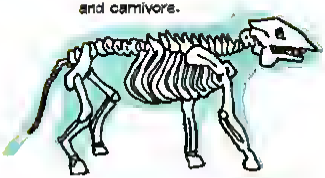


▲ Equal in size to chimpanzee's brain

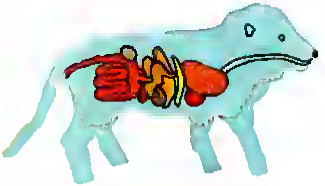
▲Human brain

[Bone Structure]

A hybrid of herbivore and carnivore.



▶ Lionsheep are artiodactyls. The hoof has two toes

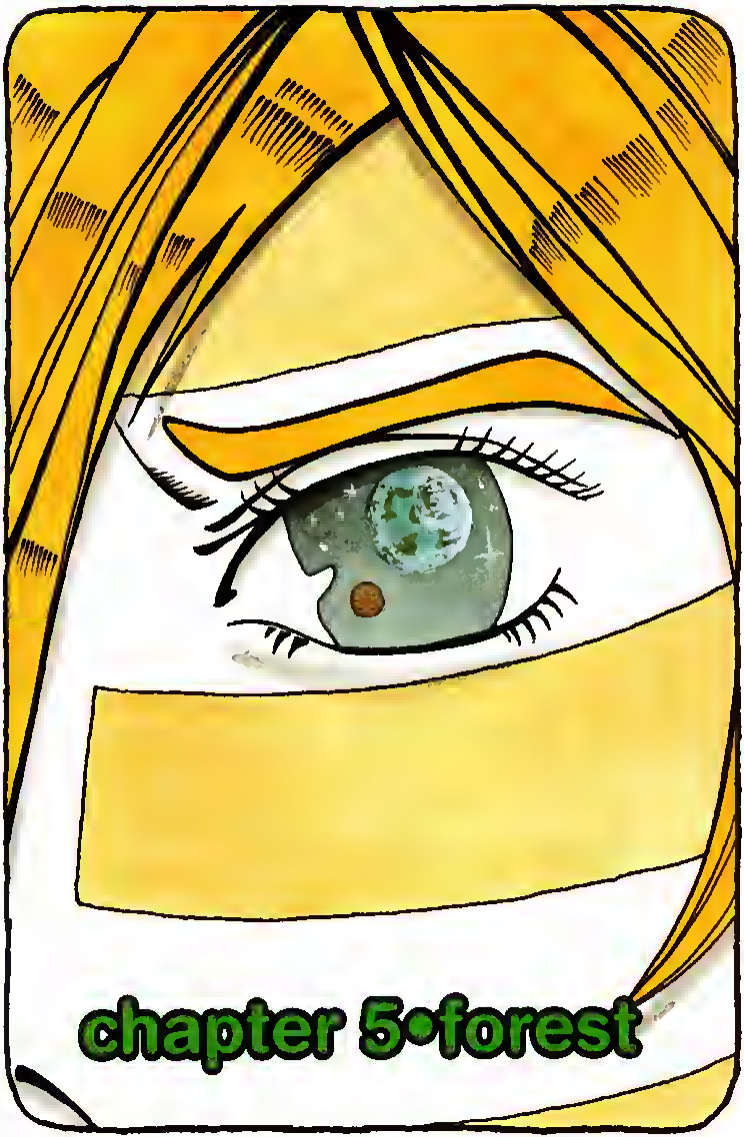


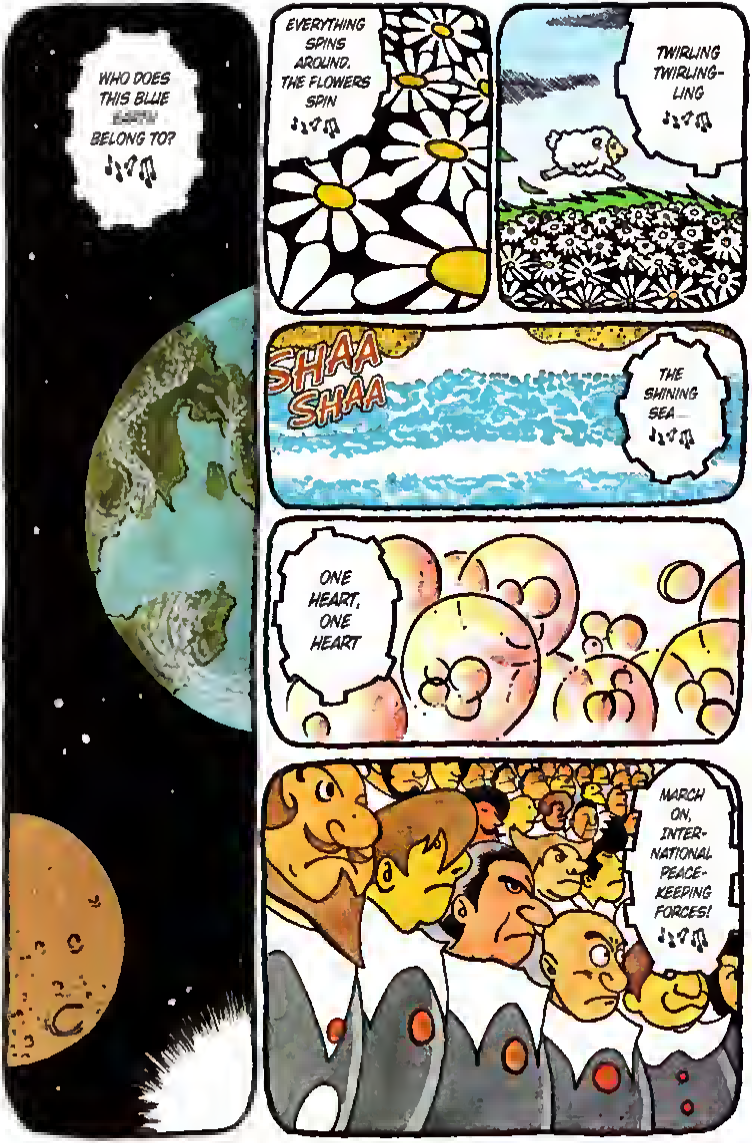
◀ Lionsheep are difficult to domesticate. There are bold men who covet them as pets, though.

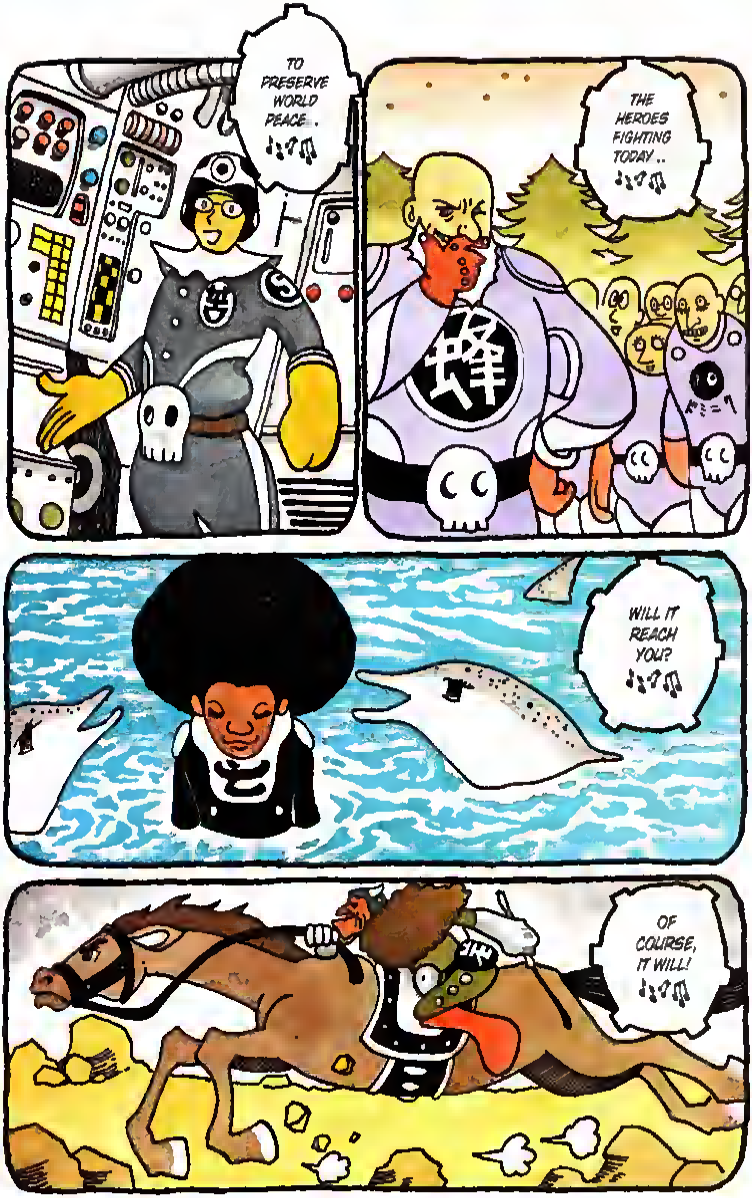
The photo (left) shows Peacekeeping Forces' Rainbow Council member Number Six.

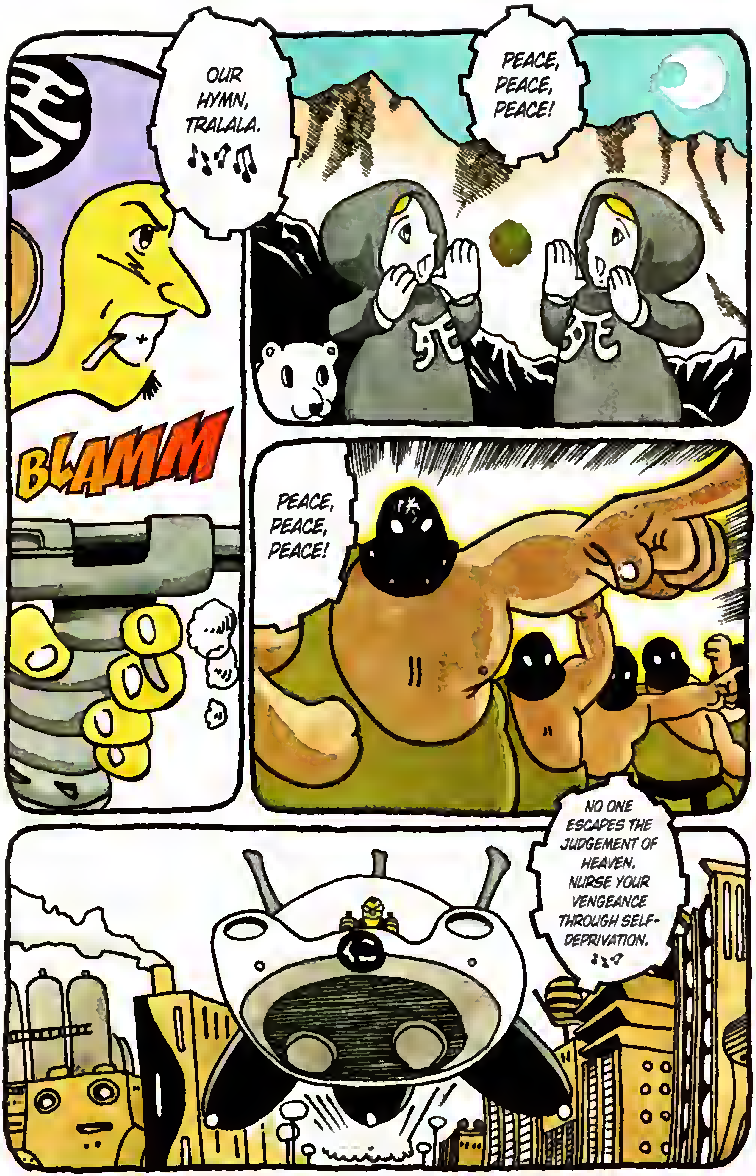
[Internal Organs]

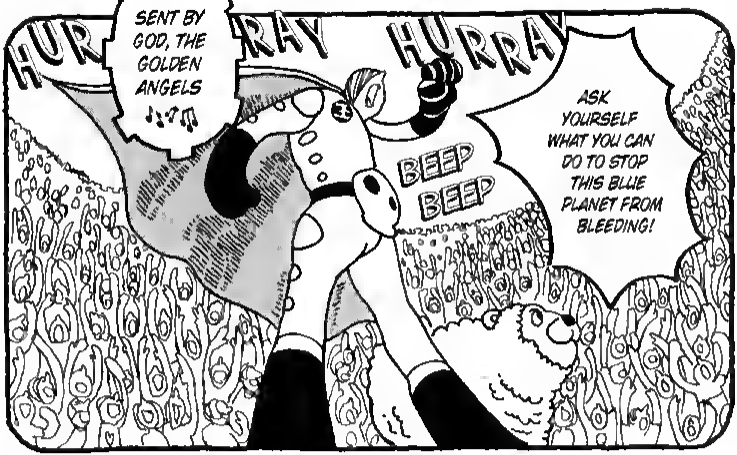
The lionsheep's most striking feature is its four stomachs for rumination, also found in cows, giraffes, deers, and camels.

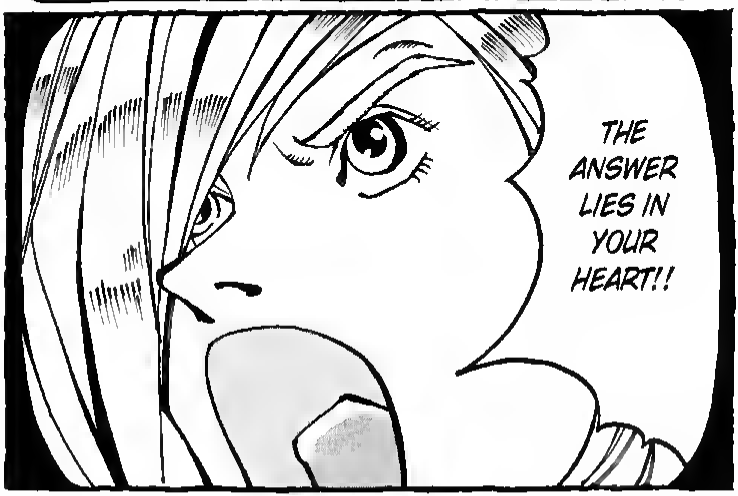

chapter 5•forest


WHO DOES THIS BLUE EARTH BELONG TO?
EVERYTHING SPINS AROUND. THE FLOWERS SPIN
TWIRLING TWIRLING-LING
SHAA SHAA
THE SHINING SEA—
ONE HEART, ONE HEART
MARCH ON, INTER-NATIONAL PEACE-KEEPING FORCES!


TO PRESERVE WORLD PEACE..
THE HEROES FIGHTING TODAY..
WILL IT REACH YOU?
OF COURSE, IT WILL!


OUR HYMN, TRALALA.
PEACE, PEACE, PEACE!
BLAMM
PEACE, PEACE, PEACE!
NO ONE ESCAPES THE JUDGEMENT OF HEAVEN. NURSE YOUR VENGEANCE THROUGH SELF-DEPRIVATION.





The dice is cast.

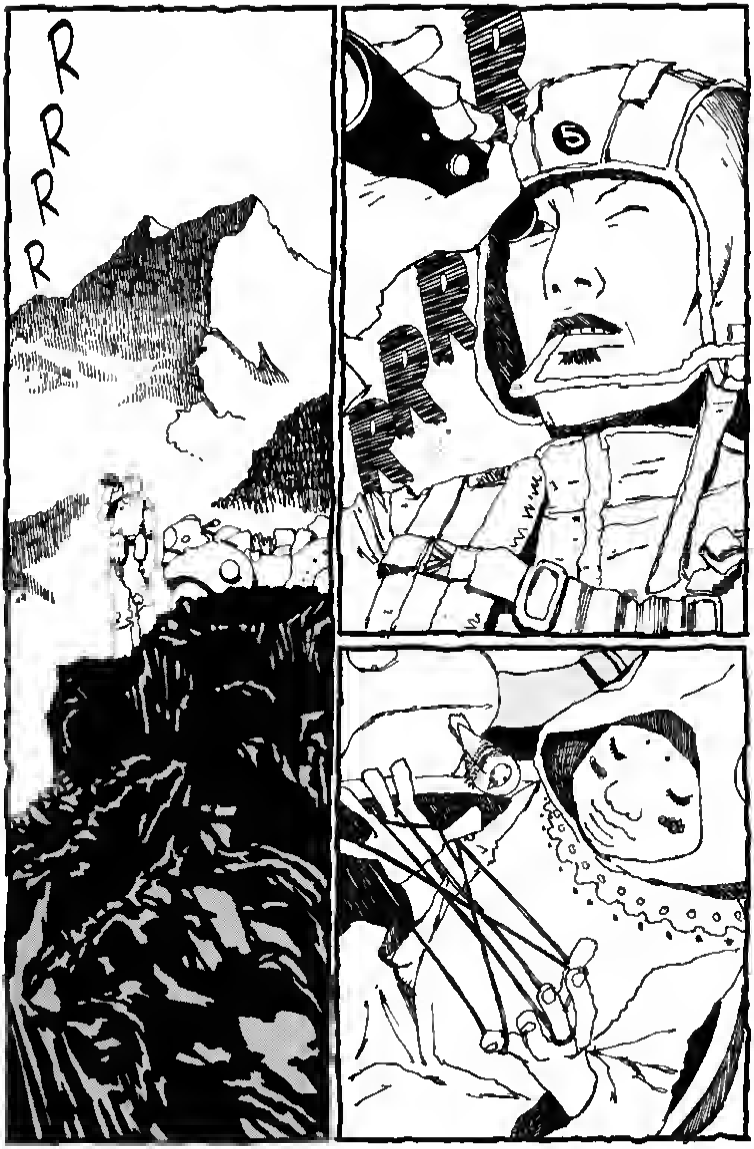
Rainbow.

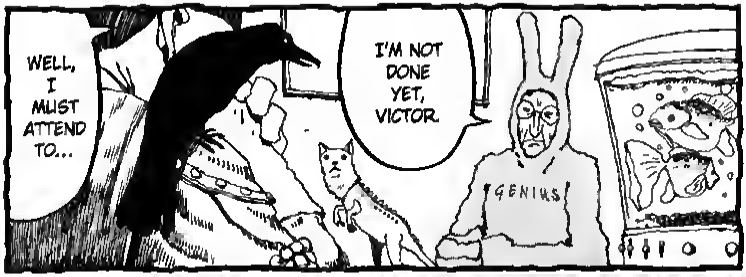
Fip.
Vip.
IS PAPA AT THE LAB?
NO, HE'S AT THE RADIO STATION.
Fip.
RADIO STATION?
ROOM NUMBER 15.
YES
PAPA IS receive
HUH.

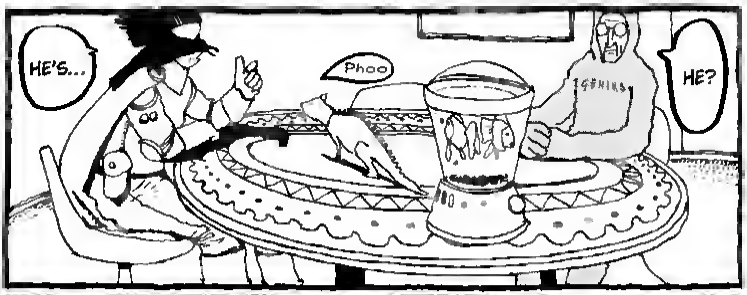
KICH
HUF
KICH
HUF
KICH
HUF
KICH
WE'RE CLOSE
WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE WE DOING FOLLOWING HIM?
I NEED TO TAKE A CRAP.
THE DOCTOR SAID HE SHOULDN'T EVEN BE ABLE TO STAND UP.
DOMINIQUE IS SO TOUGH.
HUF

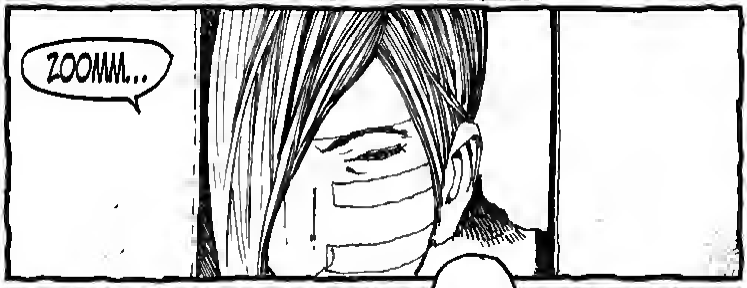
WE AIN'T NO DONNER PARTY* CLIMBING THE SIERRA MOUNTAINS
SHOULD WE SING?
YOU GO FIRST THEN
SHUT UP. YOU'RE DISTRACT-ING ME
...SO HE SAYS.
SUN'S GOING DOWN
I GOTTA TAKE A CRAP
STOP IT
HE CAN'T CONCEN-TRATE.

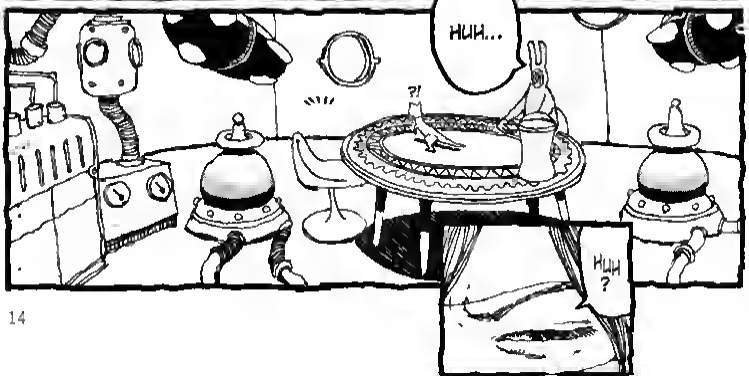
*George Donner's expedition to California in 1846-47 was stranded in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, where half of its members died. The survivors resorted to cannibalism.

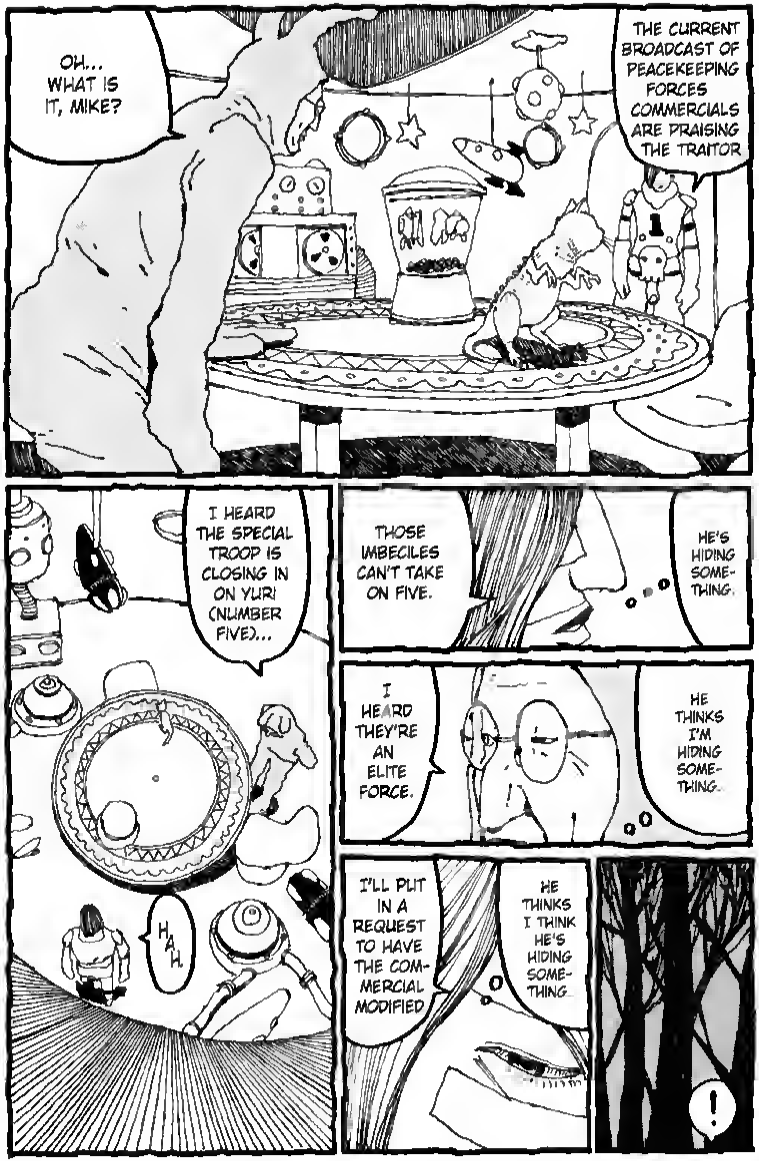

RRRR

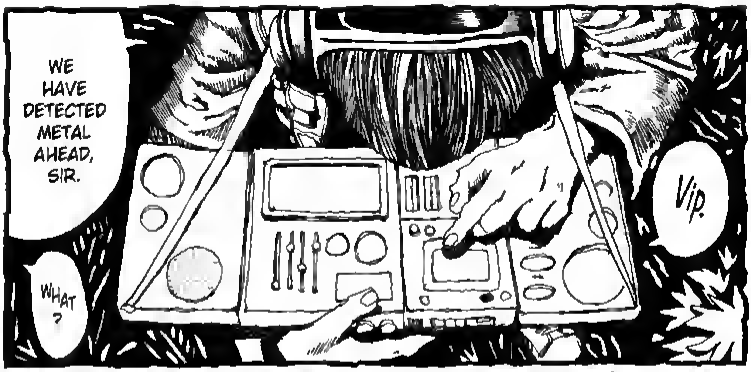

WELL, I MUST ATTEND TO...
I'M NOT DONE YET, VICTOR.
GENIUS


HE'S...
Phao
GENIUS
HE?


ZOOMM..

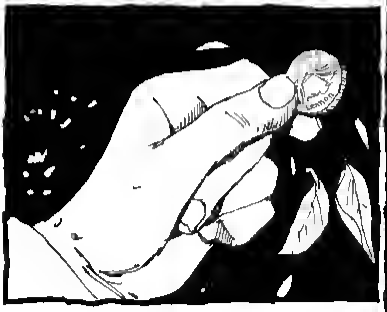

HUH...
?!
HUH ?


OH... WHAT IS IT, MIKE?
THE CURRENT BROADCAST OF PEACEKEEPING FORCES COMMERCIALS ARE PRAISING THE TRAITOR
I HEARD THE SPECIAL TROOP IS CLOSING IN ON YURI (NUMBER FIVE)...
HA, HA.
THOSE IMBECILES CAN'T TAKE ON FIVE.
HE'S HIDING SOMETHING.
I HEARD THEY'RE AN ELITE FORCE.
HE THINKS I'M HIDING SOMETHING.
I'LL PUT IN A REQUEST TO HAVE THE COMMERCIAL MODIFIED.
HE THINKS I THINK HE'S HIDING SOMETHING.
!


WE HAVE DETECTED METAL AHEAD, SIR.
WHAT ?
V/P.

A MINE?
IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT...
HEY.

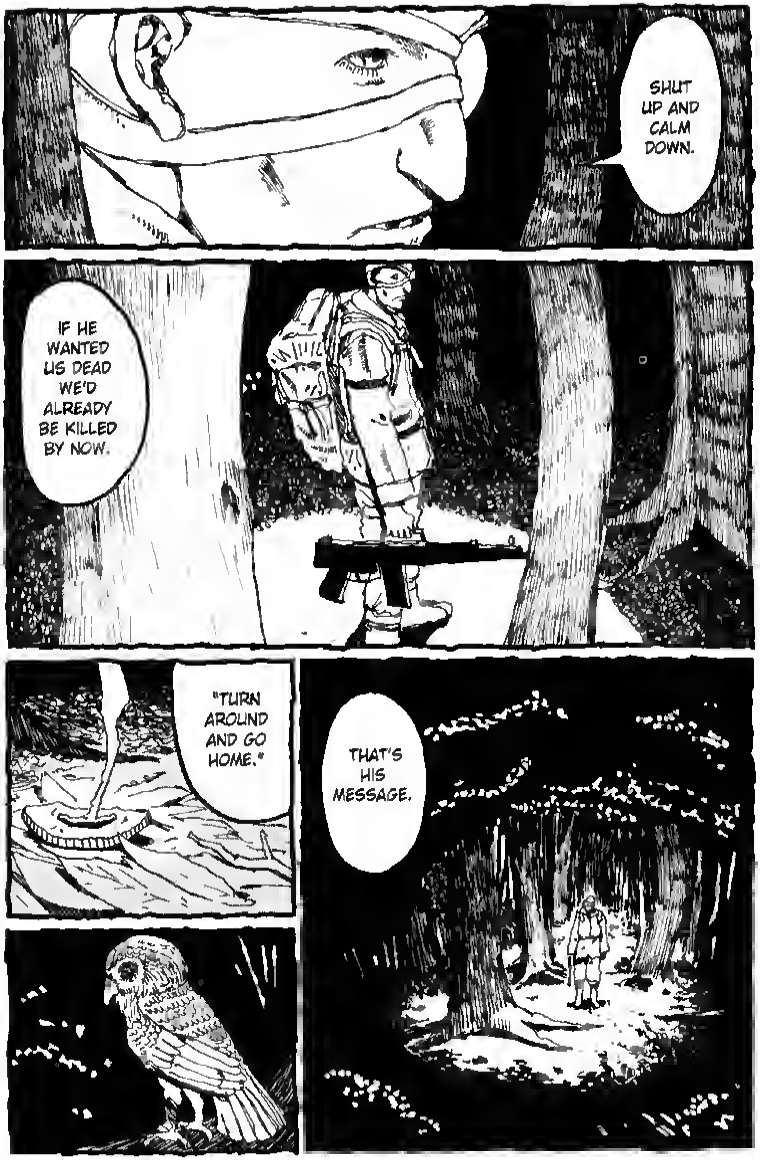
Krich.



IT'S A COIN..
HEY

DID NUMBER FIVE DROP IT?
NO, HE LEFT IT HERE.
LEFT IT?
PING
BRATT
ZAK

KRICH
SHIT!
Tup
WHERE'S IT COMING FROM!?
I CANNOT LOCATE HIM, SIR!
YOU BETTER FIND HIM!
THERE'S NO TRACE OF ANYONE WITHIN SHOOTING DISTANCE.
UNLESS THE MACHINE IS DEFECTIVE, I'D HAVE TO SAY HE'S FIRING FROM A DISTANCE EXCEEDING TWO THOUSAND YARDS!
IT'S HIM.
DOMI-NIQUE!


SHUT UP AND CALM DOWN.
IF HE WANTED US DEAD WE'D ALREADY BE KILLED BY NOW.
"TURN AROUND AND GO HOME."
THAT'S HIS MESSAGE.

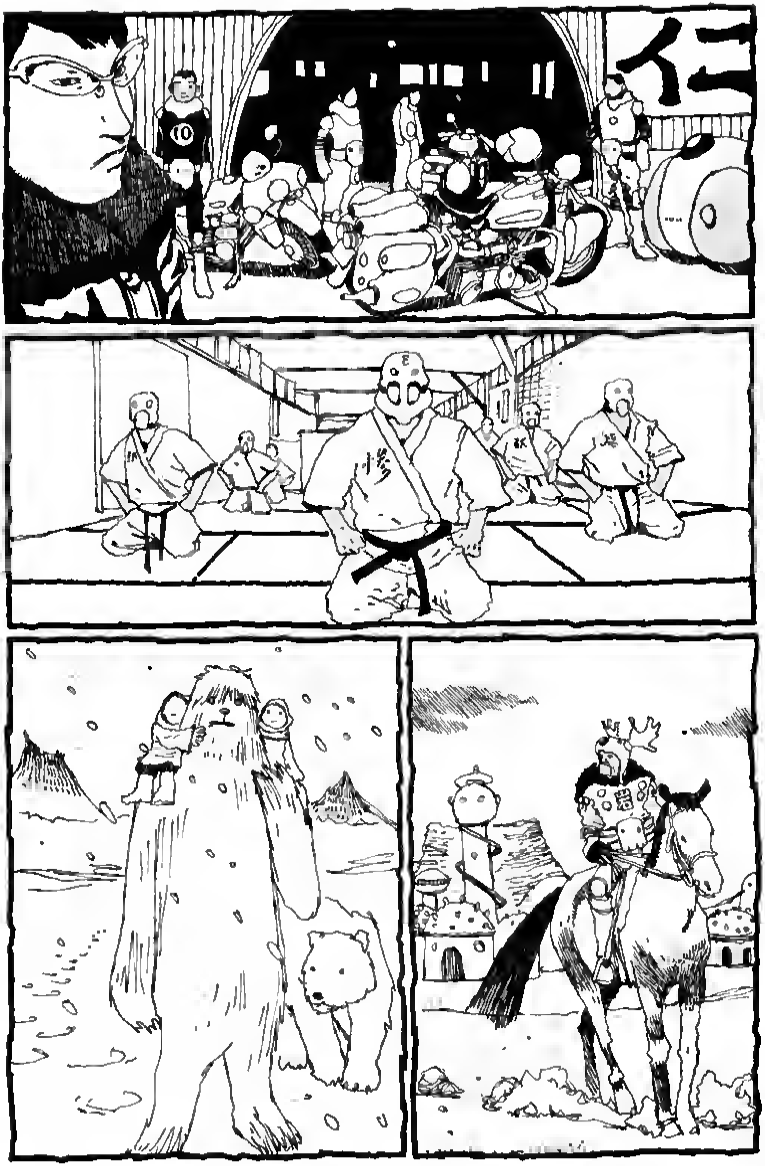
THIS IS A HYBRID OF A ROSE AND TULIP
I'M CALLING IT A "ROLIP." WHAT DO YOU THINK?
GENIUS
PAPA'S garden.
MIKE?
HM?
OH. YES, IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
ISN'T IT THOUGH?
THAT'S A MONKEY-DOG.
I MADE ONE TO PASS THE TIME.

THAT HILL.
HE'S AIMING FROM THAT HILL.
IT CAN'T BE...
THAT'S OVER 2,500 YARDS AWAY.
GET RID OF THAT TOY.
ALL RIGHT, PREPARE TO LAUNCH THE 81mm MORTAR GUN.

SHOOT ONE INTO THE HILL AND FRY 'IM!
STOP IT, YOU IDIOT!
SHOOT.
FOOM
HEY!
BRATT
PWEEE
Tak.

BOOM

OH, MY EYES...
MY EYES!
CAPTAIN, WE'RE JUST LIKE TITYOS BEING ATTACKED BY ENCELADUS.
DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND?
I DON'T GET YOUR COMPARI-SON, BUT I GET YOUR POINT.
GOOD THEN.
HEY!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, DOMINIQUE!?
IT'S DANGER-OUS
DOMINIQUE!

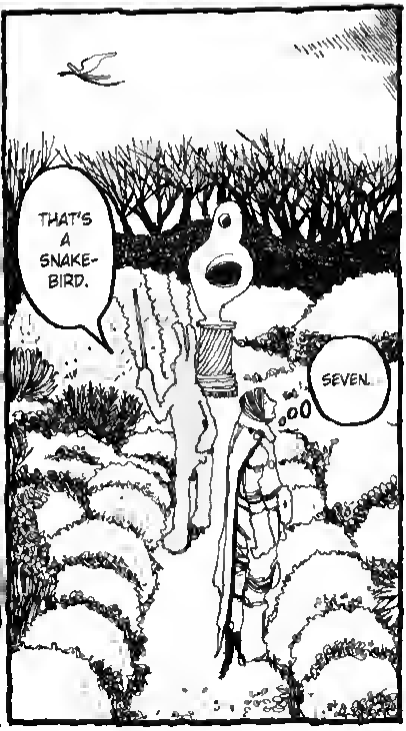

イニ

WHERE'S HE GOING?
HMPH
TO NUMBER EIGHT. .
URGH.

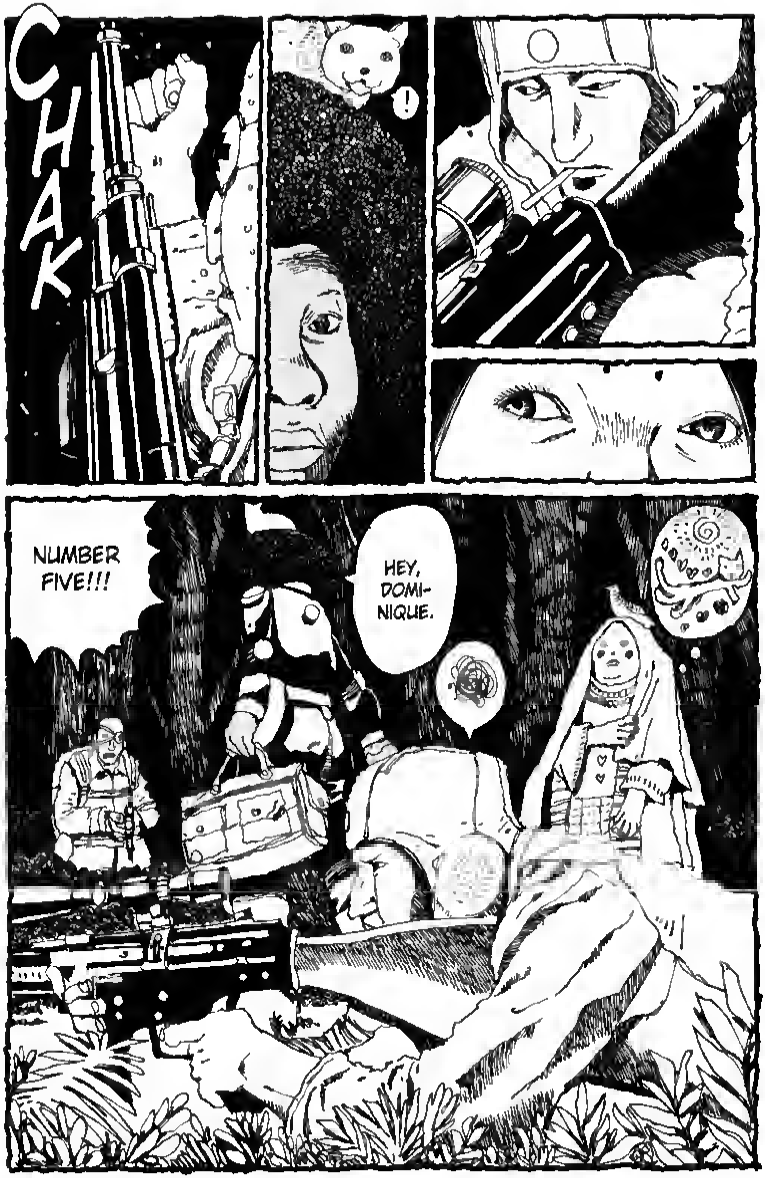
CON-
SCIENCE.
ANGER.
GRIEF.
REMORSE.
I JUST DON'T GET IT.
GOOD-BYE, KID.
YOU SEEM TO HAVE A THING FOR GUNS, FIVE.
KRICH...
!?

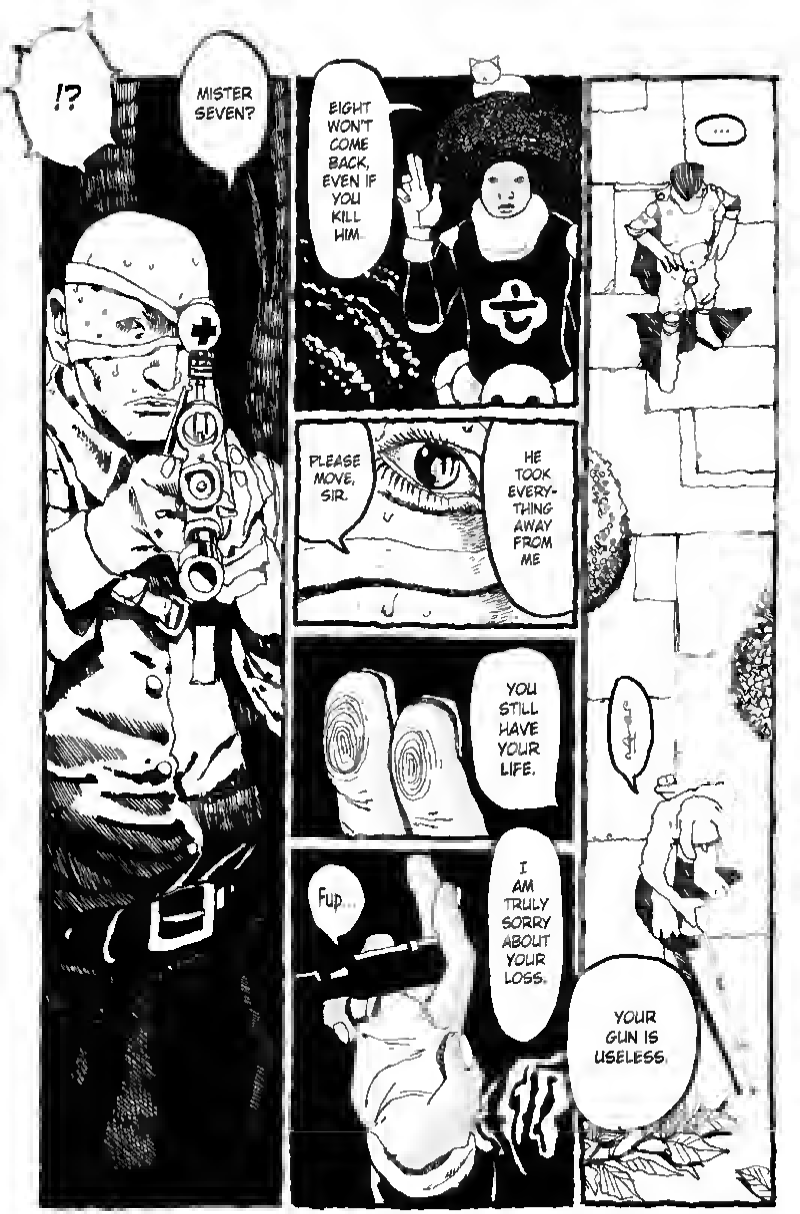
Meow
YOU SEEM ADDICTED TO THAT EQUIPMENT.
HO-

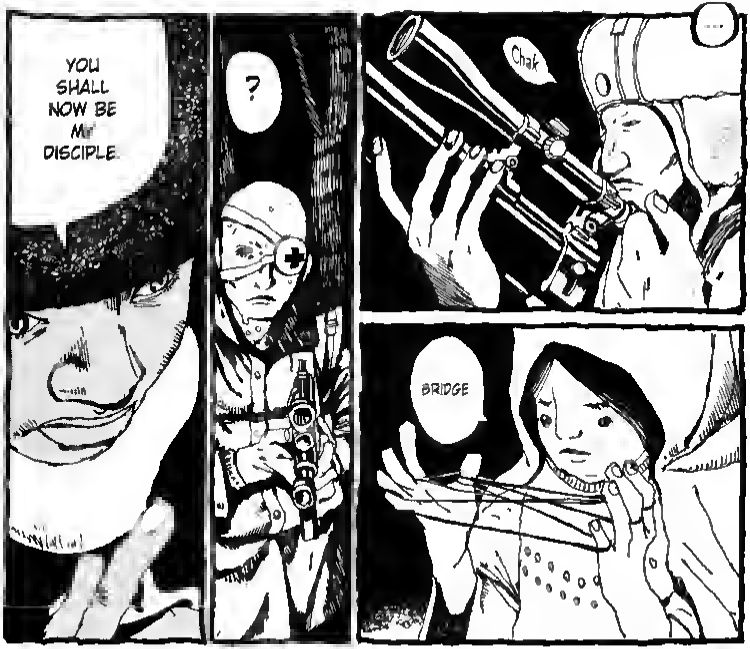
IT GETS CHILLY.
Meow.
CAT.

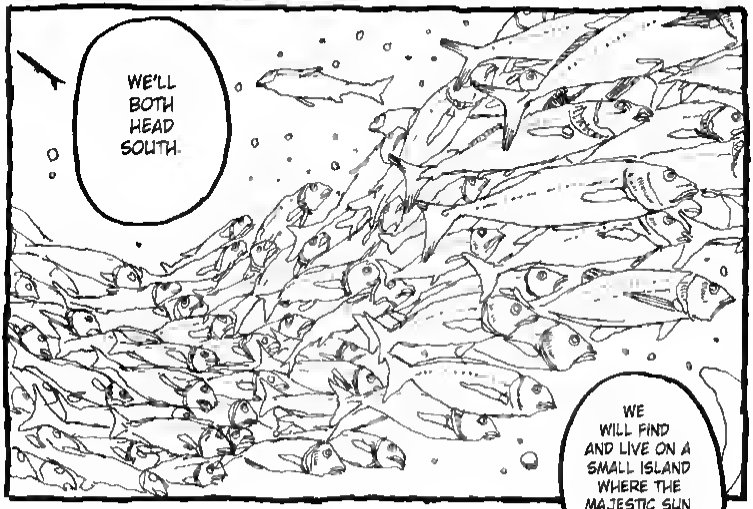

THAT'S A SNAKE-BIRD.
SEVEN.

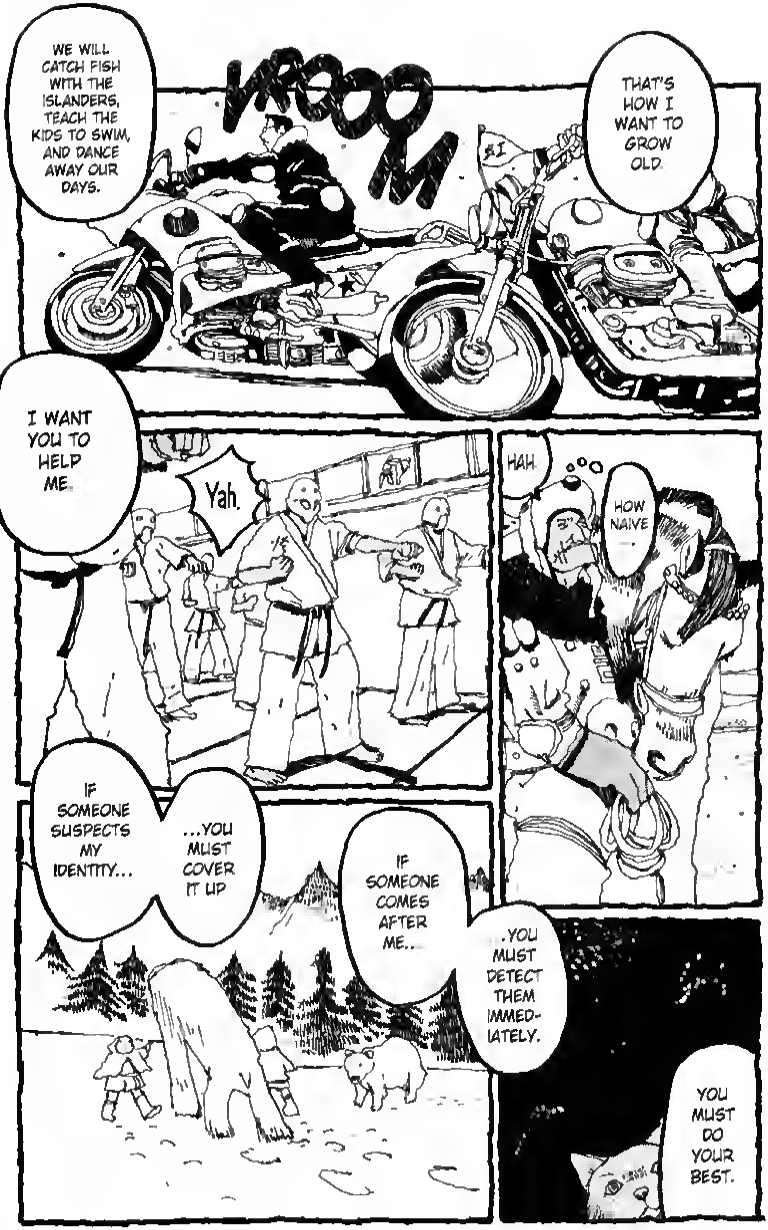
AREN'T YOU GOING TO KILL ME?
YOU'D BE ABLE TO TELL IF I WANTED TO.
I CAN THINK OF OTHER WAYS TO SEND YOU TO HEAVEN.
CAT HEAD.
SHE SEEMS TO BE DOING WELL.
CAT CAT.
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
I CAME HERE TO PICK UP MY OLD FRIEND'S COM-RADE.
I WANT NOTHING FROM YOU.
THE RAINBOW COUNCIL WILL COME AFTER YOU
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.
MEE
THE RAINBOW COUNCIL CAN'T AFFORD TO NOW.


CHAK
!
NUMBER FIVE!!!
HEY, DOMI-NIQUE.


!?
MISTER SEVEN?
EIGHT WON'T COME BACK, EVEN IF YOU KILL HIM.
...
HE TOOK EVERY-THING AWAY FROM ME
PLEASE MOVE, SIR.
YOU STILL HAVE YOUR LIFE.
I AM TRULY SORRY ABOUT YOUR LOSS.
Fup...
YOUR GUN IS USELESS.

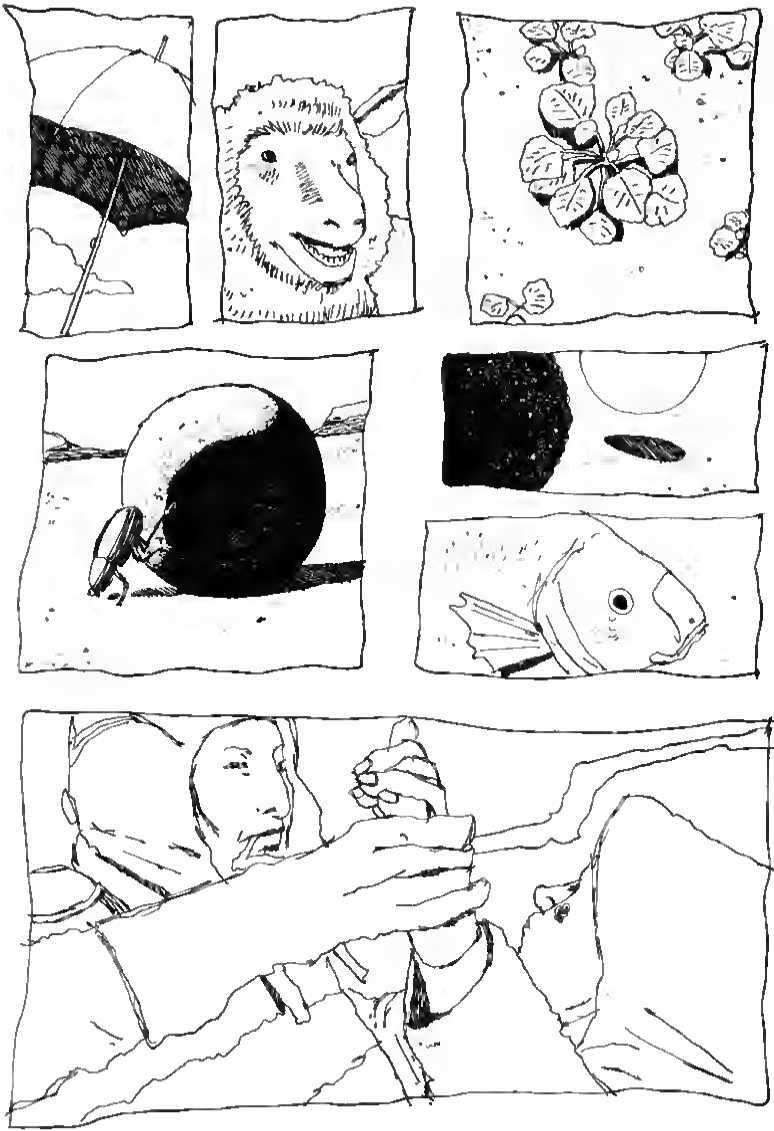

YOU SHALL NOW BE MY DISCIPLE.
?
Chak
...
BRIDGE

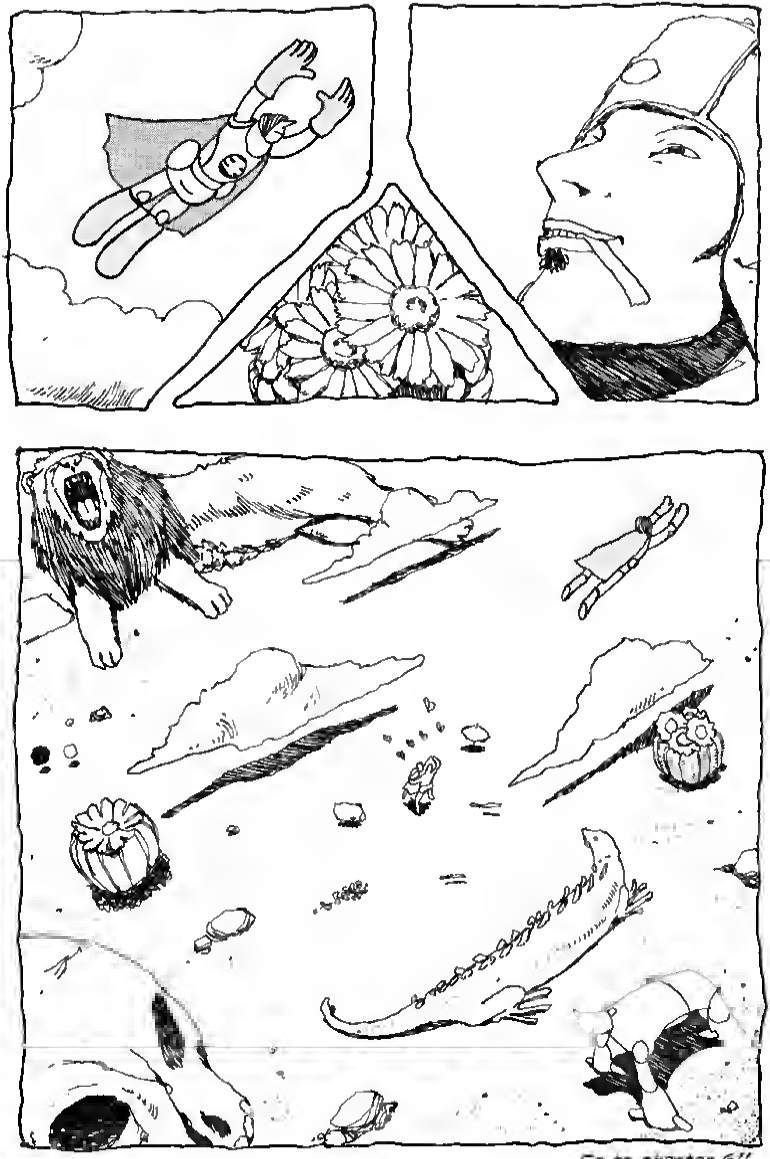

WE'LL BOTH HEAD SOUTH.
WE WILL FIND AND LIVE ON A SMALL ISLAND WHERE THE MAJESTIC SUN RULES


WE WILL CATCH FISH WITH THE ISLANDERS, TEACH THE KIDS TO SWIM, AND DANCE AWAY OUR DAYS.
VROOM
THAT'S HOW I WANT TO GROW OLD.
I WANT YOU TO HELP ME.
Yah.
HAH.
HOW NAIVE.
IF SOMEONE SUSPECTS MY IDENTITY...
...YOU MUST COVER IT UP
IF SOMEONE COMES AFTER ME...
...YOU MUST DETECT THEM IMMEDIATELY.
YOU MUST DO YOUR BEST.

THIS IS MY LAST ORDER AS CAPTAIN OF THE NUMBER SEVEN SQUAD, COLONEL DOMINIQUE.
IT IS YOUR DUTY TO OBEY ME.
EVERY-THING S-INS AROUND THE FLOWERS SPIN
TWIRLING TWIRLING -LING
THE SHINING SEA
PHOO
AFRO AND BALDY.

ONE HEART, ONE HEART
Meow
MARCH ON, ♪♪♪ INTER-NATIONAL PEACE-KEEPING FORCES.
TO PRESERVE WORLD PEACE.. ♪♪♪
THE HEROES FIGHTING TODAY. ♪♪♪
HOME.
SCHNORRR




Go to chapter 6!!

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ABOUT THE ARTIST

Taiyo Matsumoto was born in 1967 in Tokyo and has become one of tha most notable naw manga talents to emerge in the 1990s. Saverai of his works have been transiatad into French, whiie he is best known in Engiiah for *Black and White*, published by Viz.

www.viz.com

No.5 vol.2 By Taiyo Matsumoto

No.5 vol. 2

COUNTDOWN

A science-fiction thriller set in a powerfully imagined political and future landscape, *No. 5* is the latest work from the critically acclaimed creator of *Black and White*, Taiyo Matsumoto.

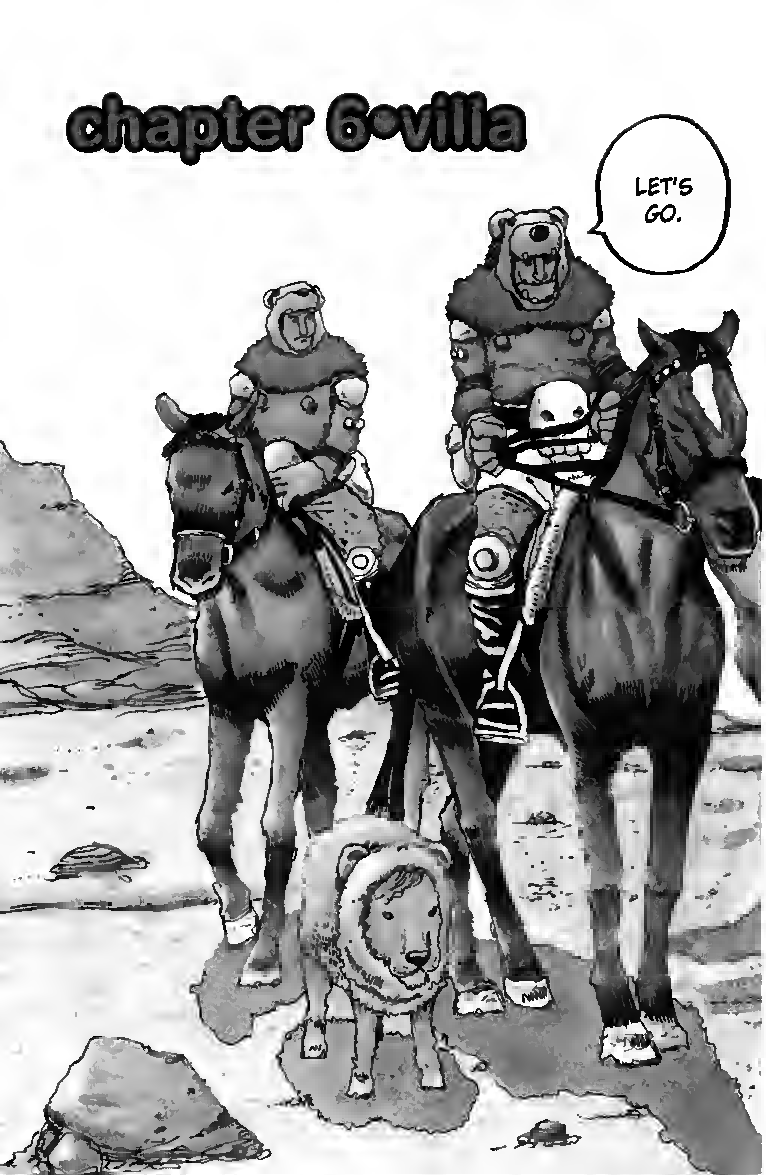
In a world that has become one harsh desert, the Rainbow Council of the International Peace Keeping Forces, a team of super-powered global security guardians, have a growing crisis on their hands. No. 5, one of their own and their top marksman, has gone rogue. It's up to the other guardians to track him down—but No. 5, and his mysterious companion Matroshka, won't go down without a fight. Now with Nos. 8 and 9 down for the count, it is No. 7's turn....

By Taiyo Matsumoto

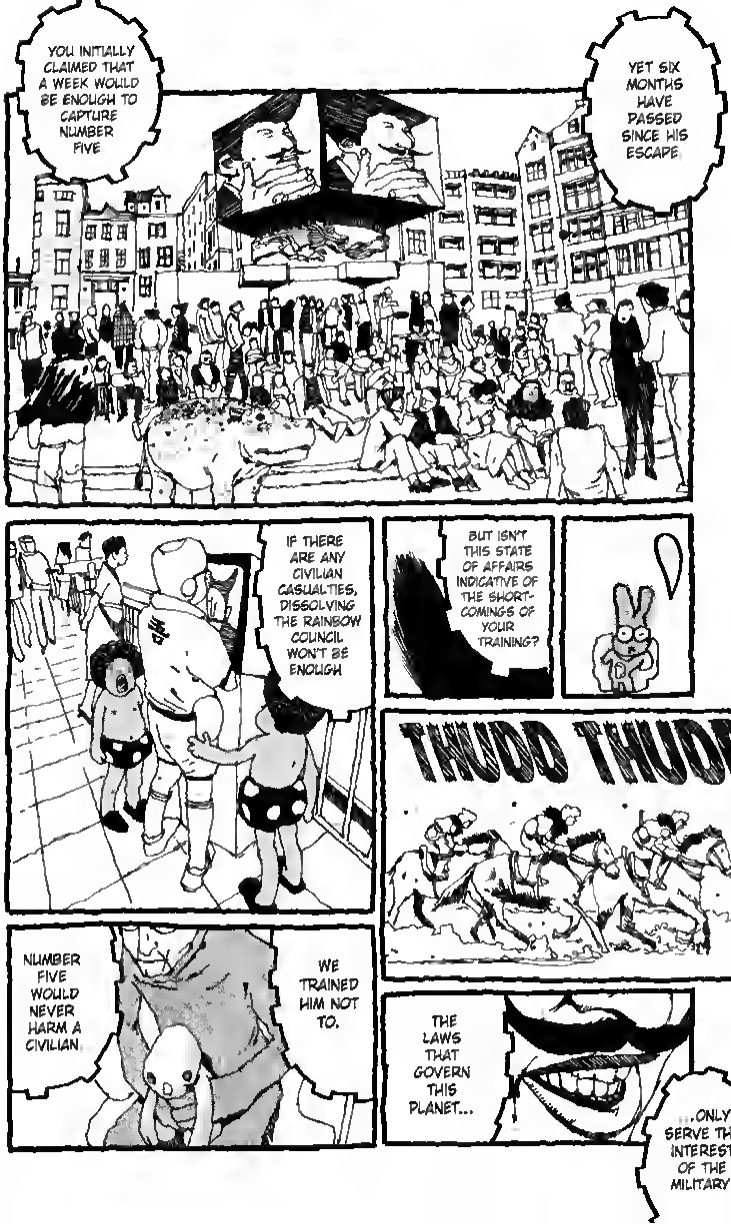
FROM THE CREATOR OF BLACK & WHITE

THERE ARE FIVE NO, SIX SOLDIERS.
THE GAME APPEARS TO BE PAMPAS.
CAPTAIN.
I DON'T NEED THAT.
THIS IS THE THIRD TIME WE'RE TAKING THIS LEADER IN.
WE'LL HAVE TO TEACH HIM A LESSON TODAY.
DAMN.
I SPENT THE ENTIRE DAY SCOURING THE AREA.
WHEN I WAS LEADER, I DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THIS KIND OF WORK.
STOP
NO USE COMPLAINING
TMP

chapter 6•villa

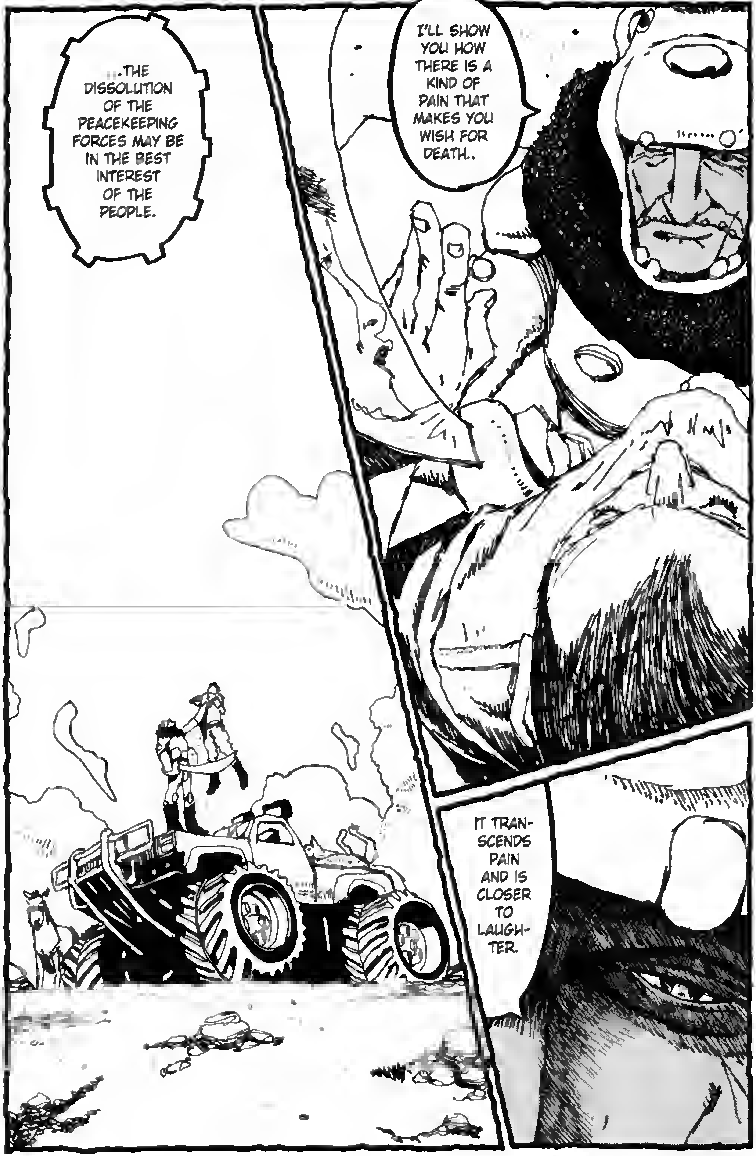


...YOU, DOCTOR, BELIEVE THAT THE RAINBOW COUNCIL SHOULD CONTINUE TO EXIST.
公開討論会TV.
Public Open Forum.
OF COURSE
THEIR PERFORMANCE RECORD WARRANTS THEIR EXISTENCE.
BUT THIS SO-CALLED RECORD HAS ONLY BEEN PROVIDED BY THE MILITARY...
...SO IT HASN'T BEEN VERIFIED.
BE CAREFUL, YOU MAY BE INSULTING YOUR OWN MEDIA.
I AM ONLY ADVOCATING A HEALTHY DOSE OF SKEPTICISM.
EVEN THOUGH NUMBER SEVEN WAS REPORTED KILLED, HIS BODY HASN'T BEEN FOUND. THERE HAS BEEN NO SERVICE EITHER.
HIS SERVICE WILL BE HELD SOON
IT IS A FACT THAT NUMBER SEVEN WAS SHOT TO DEATH BY NUMBER FIVE
I ♥ One

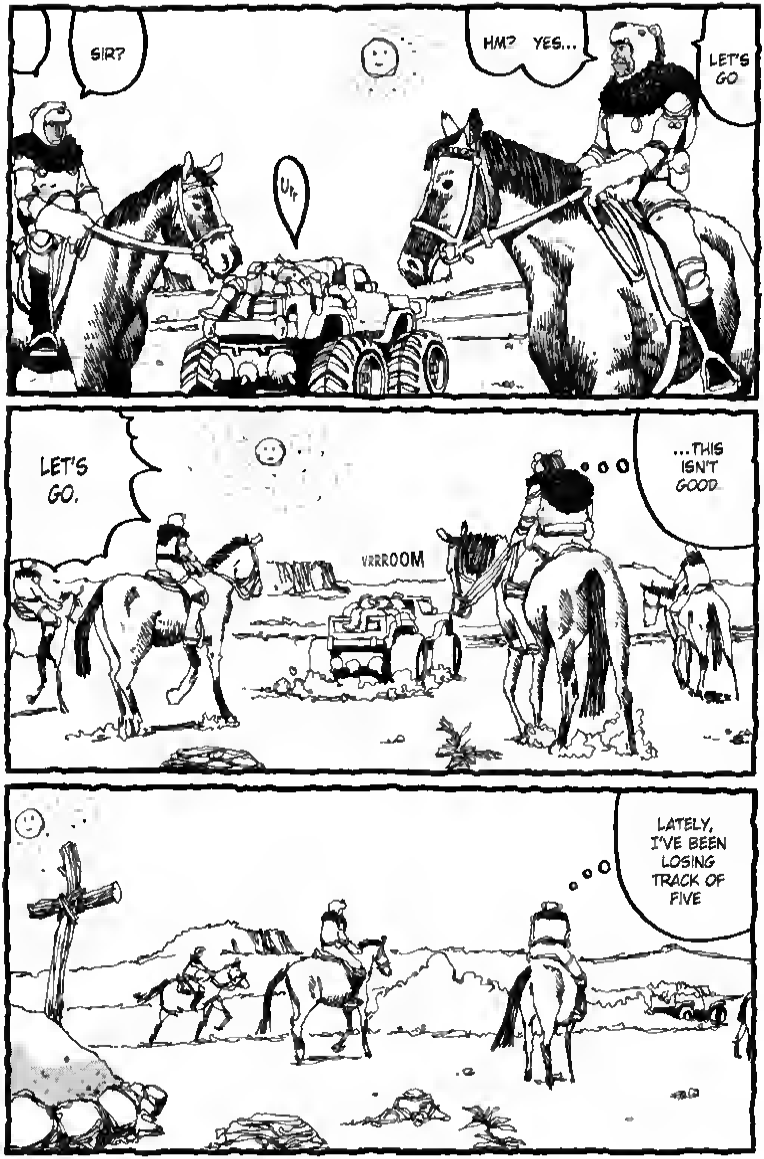

YOU INITIALLY CLAIMED THAT A WEEK WOULD BE ENOUGH TO CAPTURE NUMBER FIVE
YET SIX MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE HIS ESCAPE
IF THERE ARE ANY CIVILIAN CASUALTIES, DISSOLVING THE RAINBOW COUNCIL WON'T BE ENOUGH
BUT ISN'T THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS INDICATIVE OF THE SHORT-COMINGS OF YOUR TRAINING?
!
THUDD THUDD
NUMBER FIVE WOULD NEVER HARM A CIVILIAN.
WE TRAINED HIM NOT TO.
THE LAWS THAT GOVERN THIS PLANET...
...ONLY SERVE THE INTEREST OF THE MILITARY

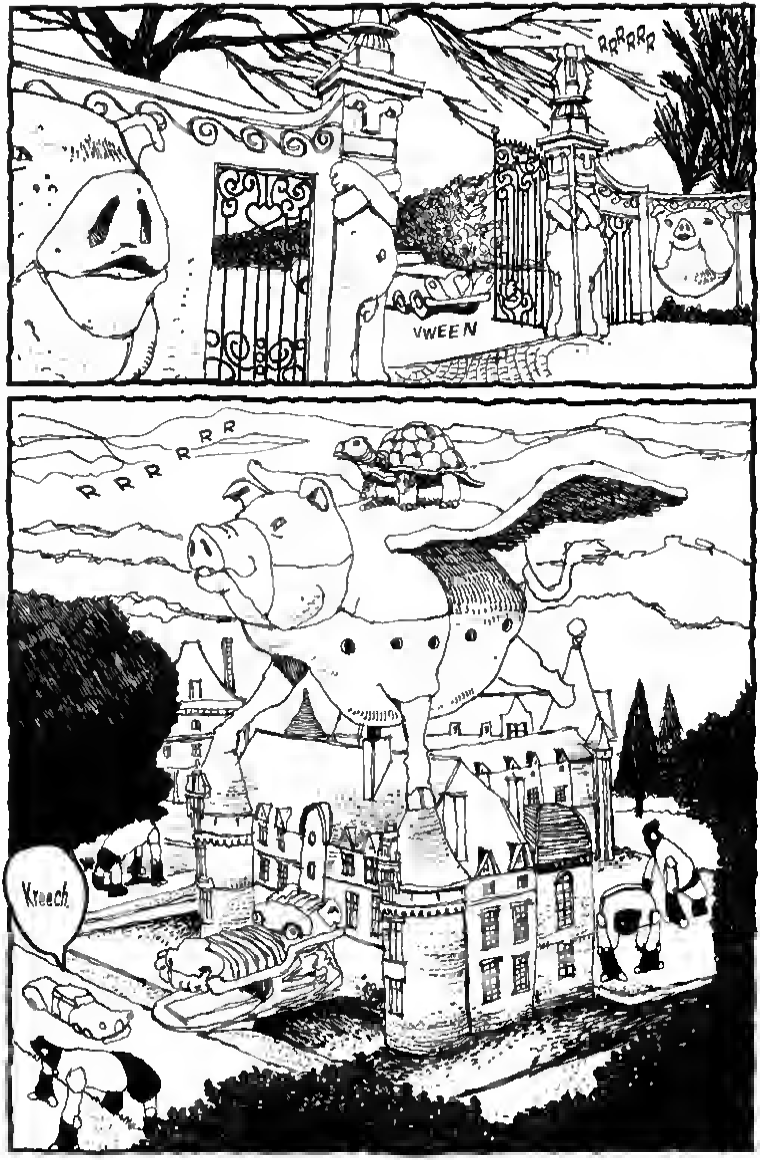
FUNDAMENTALLY, THE MILITARY LOOKS AFTER THE MASSES ACCORDING TO THESE LAWS
KR
EEEK
AIEEE!
I AM NOT SAYING THAT POACHERS SHOULD BE IGNORED OR THAT UPRISINGS SHOULDN'T BE SUPPRESSED.

WHAT I AM CALLING INTO QUESTION IS THE EXTRA-ORDINARY BUDGET ALLOCATED FOR THIS PURPOSE
WHO
AIEE
FWANG
IS IT A NECESSARY EXPENSE TO PORTRAY THEM AS HEROES FOR CHILDREN?
AIEE.
UNGH.
KRRSH
I BELIEVE THIS CURRENT INCIDENT IS A WAKE UP CALL FOR THE PEOPLE TO CONSIDER THIS ...

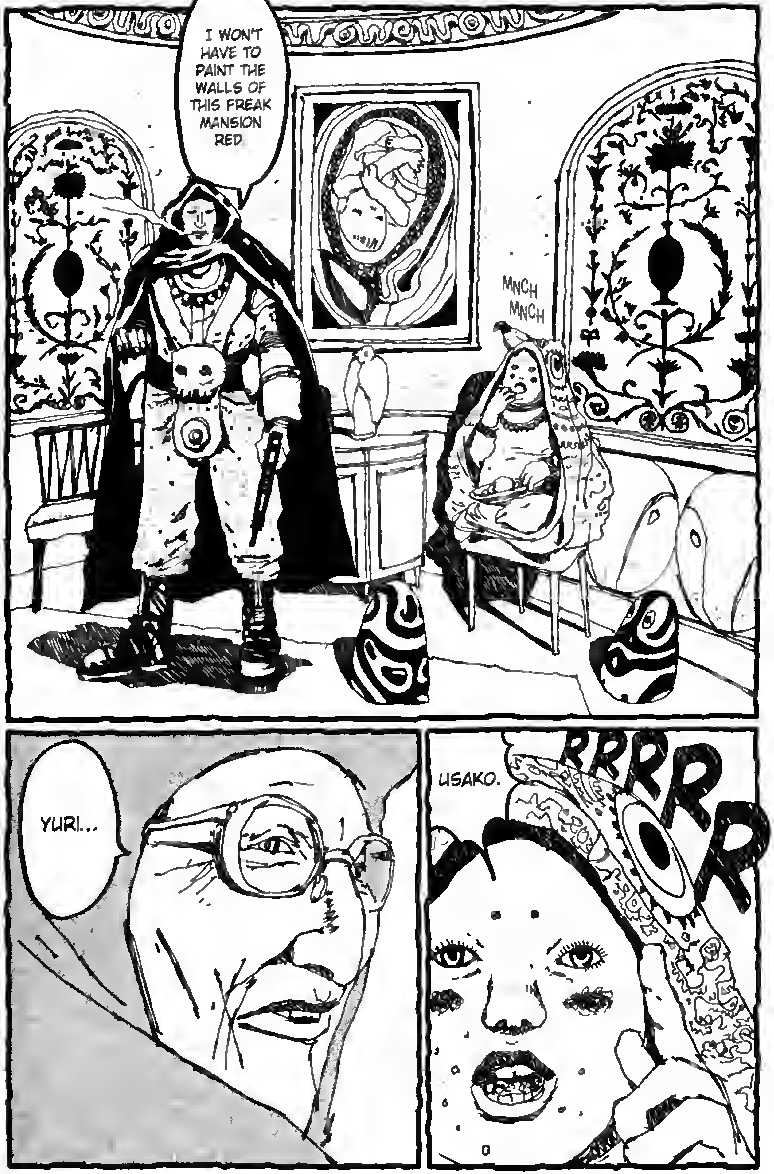

...THE DISSOLUTION OF THE PEACEKEEPING FORCES MAY BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE.
I'LL SHOW YOU HOW THERE IS A KIND OF PAIN THAT MAKES YOU WISH FOR DEATH..
IT TRANSCENDS PAIN AND IS CLOSER TO LAUGHTER.

HMM.
GOOD NIGHT, EVERY-ONE
NO, TAKE ME TO THE MANSION.
WILL YOU BE RETURN-ING TO THE LAB?
YES, SIR.
Chud
I'M TIRED
VRRROOMMM
WE HAVE EVERYTHING LOADED, SIR.


SIR?
Ur
HM? YES...
LET'S GO
LET'S GO.
VRRROOM
...THIS ISN'T GOOD
LATELY, I'VE BEEN LOSING TRACK OF FIVE


RRRRR
VWEEN
RRRRR
Kreech

DINNER IS READY, SIR.
Urr
THANK YOU.
GOOD NIGHT, SIR.
Urr
GOOD NIGHT.
YOU CAN GO NOW.
YES, SIR.
Chud.
PHOO.
IDIOTS.
GOOD THING YOU SENT THE FRANKENS AWAY, PAPA.


I WON'T HAVE TO PAINT THE WALLS OF THIS FREAK MANSION RED
MNCH MNCH
YURI...
USAKO.
RRRR

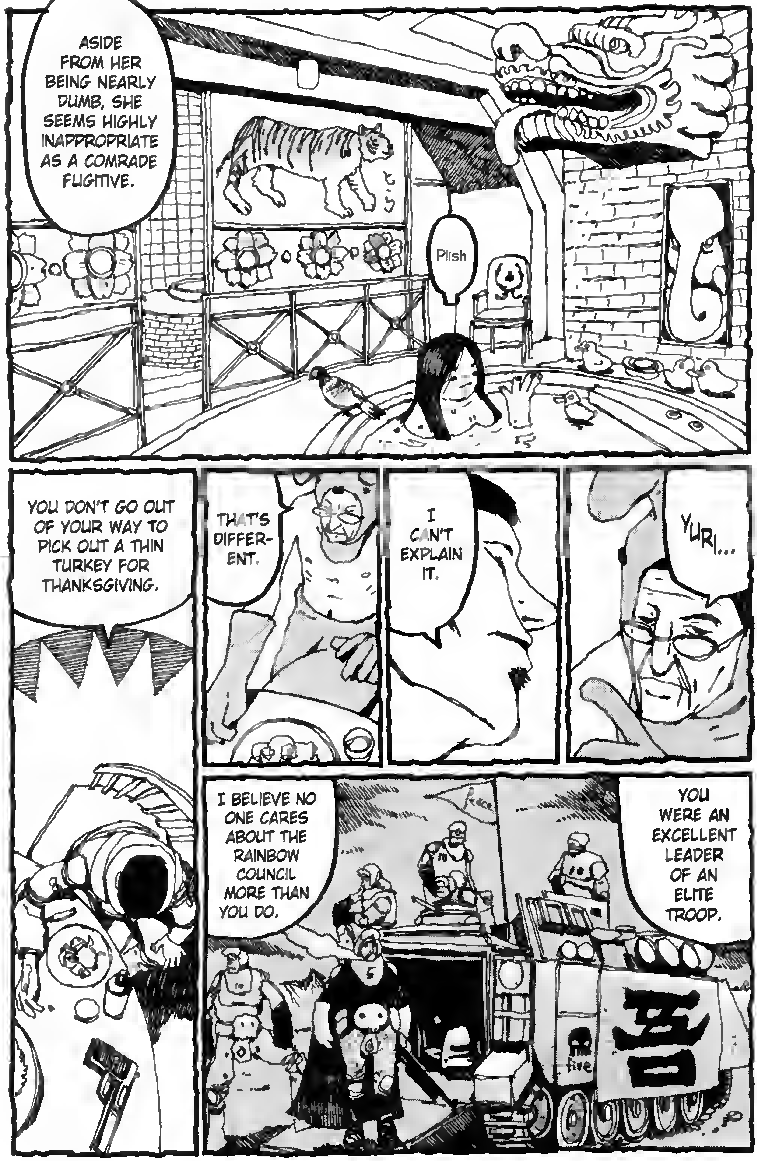
RRR
HUH? WHAT?
I CAN'T HEAR A THING.
RRR
6
A CALL FROM MISTER ONE, SIR.
RRR
SO YOU'RE ABOUT TO FACE, NUMBER FIVE, SIX—
TAKING YOUR HORSE WITH YOU?
HAH
DON'T CALL HIM A HORSE!
THUNDER IS MY "SPIRITUAL GUIDE."
Heen.
HOW SPLENDID, SIX.
I WISH YOU SUCCESS
IS FOUR THERE TOO?

BY THE WAY, DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE FIVE IS?
R R R R R R R R
NO, WE HAVE LOST HIM FOR THE PAST TWO DAYS AS WELL
EVEN YOU TWO.
HMM
FIVE MUST HAVE BECOME WISER AFTER HIS ENCOUNTER WITH SEVEN
HE LEARNED HOW TO CONTROL HIS EMOTIONS
SONY
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS FISH HIM OUT!!
MY ANGER WILL BE THE BAIT.
WELL SAID, SIX.
HAH.
SOUNDS SARCASTIC COMING FROM YOU

NEXT TIME WE MEET, I'LL HAVE FIVE'S BODY WITH ME, ONE
GOOD LUCK.
URGH, HE'S UTTERLY ANNOYING.
I'M NOT LAME LIKE SEVEN!!
FWIP FWIP FWIP
I FEEL HE HAS NO RESPECT FOR HIS ELDERS.
AIRCRAFT CLEARED FOR TAKEOFF!

HE'S LIKE BELLER-OPHON* CHASING AFTER CHIMERA.
PLEASE GO.
SIR?
HE HAS TO CONCEN-TRATE TO LOCATE FIVE.
YOU TWO HELP ME TOO, FOUR.
NOW THEN, LET'S BEGIN.
CONCENTRATE...
Chud.
HA HA. SURE.
ONE IS SO DEDICATED, HA HA.
HA HA..
*A warrior god in Greek mythology who rode Pegasus.

THIS IS A BOLD MOVE, YURI.
ARE YOU ASSUMING PAPA WOULD NEVER REPORT YOUR LOCATION?
NO ONE KNOWS ME AS WELL AS YOU DO.
IF YOU REPORT ME, THEN THIS MANSION WILL TURN INTO A BATTLEFIELD.
STILL, THIS IS DANGEROUS.
PUT OUT YOUR CIGARETTE.
I'M HOMESICK.
Krsch.
TELL ME, WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THAT WOMAN, YURI?


ASIDE FROM HER BEING NEARLY DUMB, SHE SEEMS HIGHLY INAPPROPRIATE AS A COMRADE FUGITIVE.
Plish
YURI...
I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT.
THAT'S DIFFERENT.
YOU DON'T GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO PICK OUT A THIN TURKEY FOR THANKSGIVING.
I BELIEVE NO ONE CARES ABOUT THE RAINBOW COUNCIL MORE THAN YOU DO.
YOU WERE AN EXCELLENT LEADER OF AN ELITE TROOP.

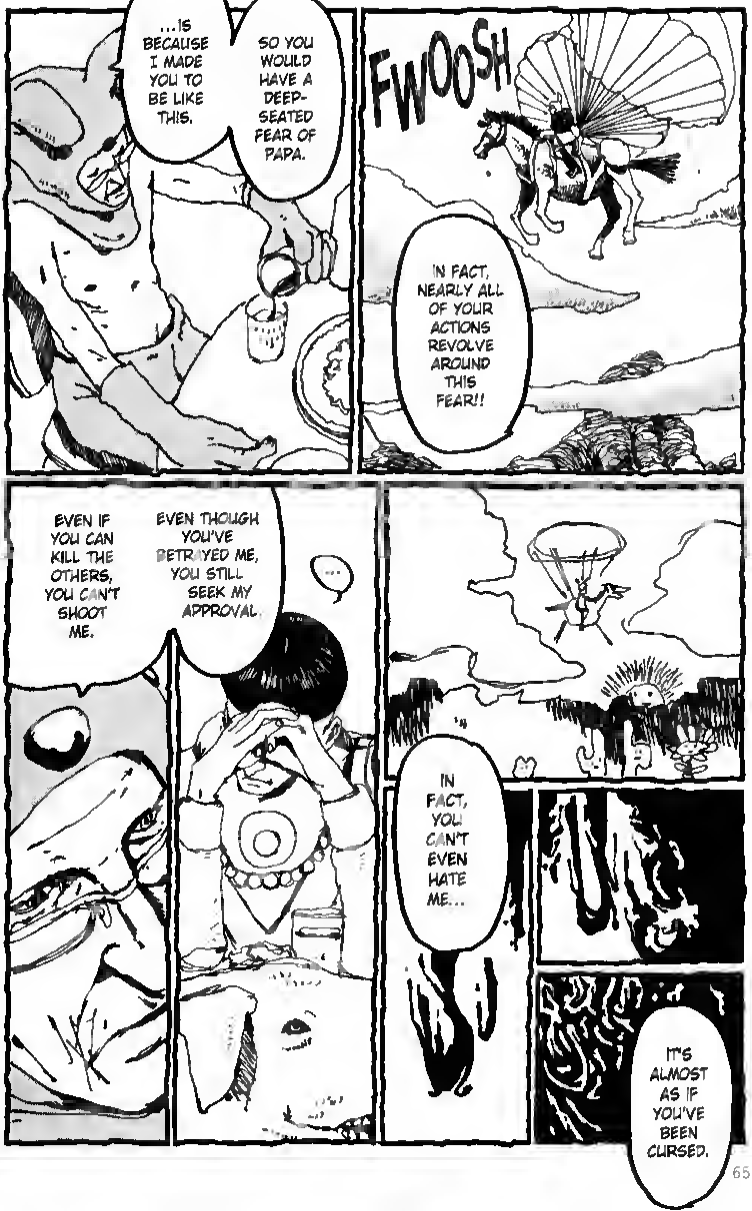
AND WITH NUMBER ONE, I FIRMLY BELIEVED THE RAINBOW COUNCIL WAS UNIFIED.
YOU SHOULD BEWARE OF NUMBER ONE...
HE'S GOT DIFFERENT PLANS THAN YOU...
...

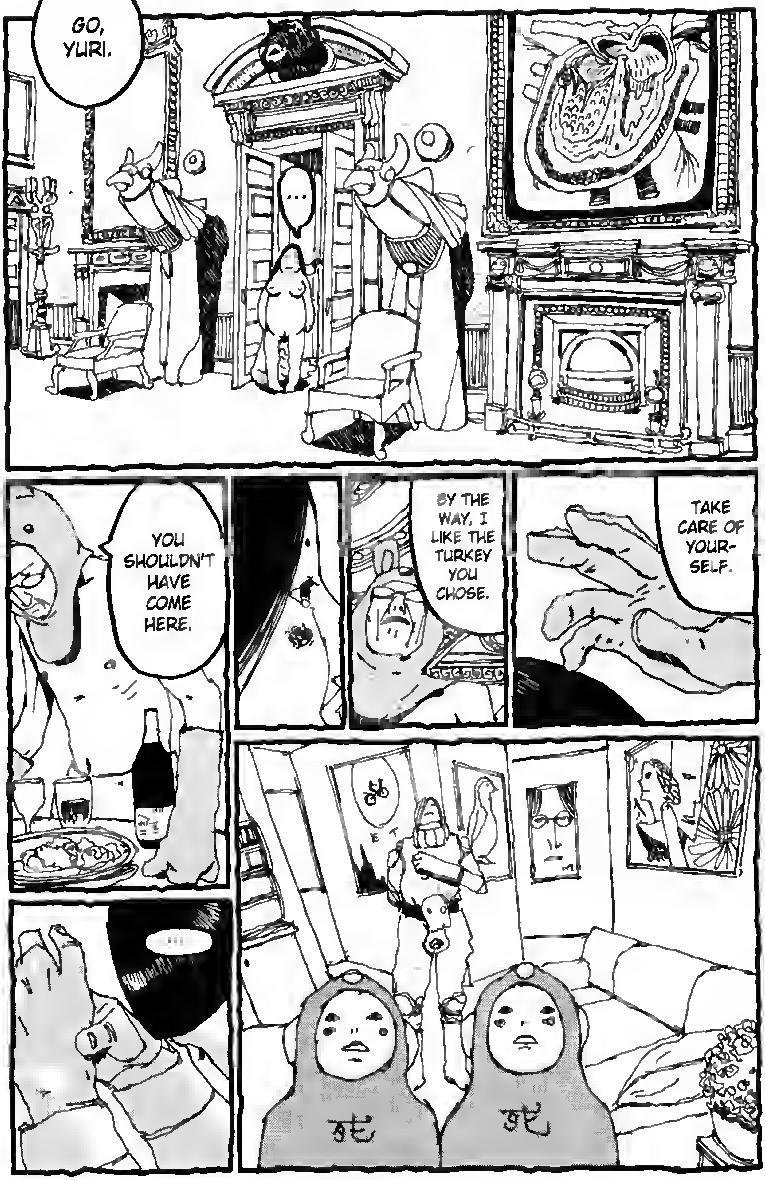
HA HA.
WHY DON'T YOU USE YOUR POWERS AND READ ME?
...
TELL ME WHAT I'M THINKING BY LOOKING INTO MY MIND.
I CAN'T DO THAT.
OUR SYNCHRONI-ZATION POWERS AREN'T PSYCHIC THE WAY YOU IMAGINE THEY ARE.
I AM OVER-WHELMED BY A WISH FOR YOUR DEMISE, YURI.

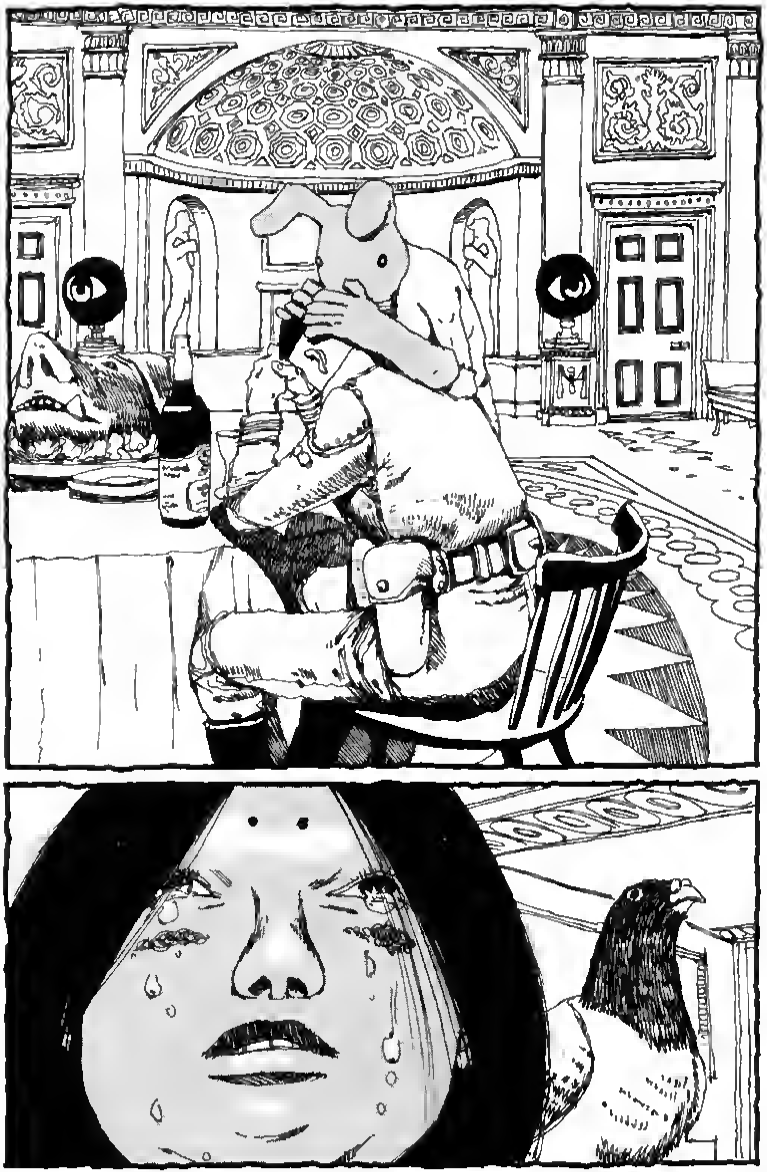
BUT I ALSO FEEL SOME PITY...
...AND RESPON-SIBILITY.
I WANTED TO BE THE KIND OF SON YOU WOULD BE PROUD OF.
THEN DIE.
MAKE ME HAPPY.

LET ME OFF HERE!!
R
R R
R
R
IS NUMBER FIVE NEAR HERE?
I DON'T KNOW.
RRR
BUT I FELT HIM SINKING.
I WISH YOU SUCCESS.
HAH.
I CAN'T DIE WITH SO MANY INCOMPETENT SOLDIERS LIKE YOU AROUND.
Heen.
I'LL GO AFTER HIM WITH THUNDER FROM HERE ON!!
I'M OPENING THE HATCH, SIR!
Fip

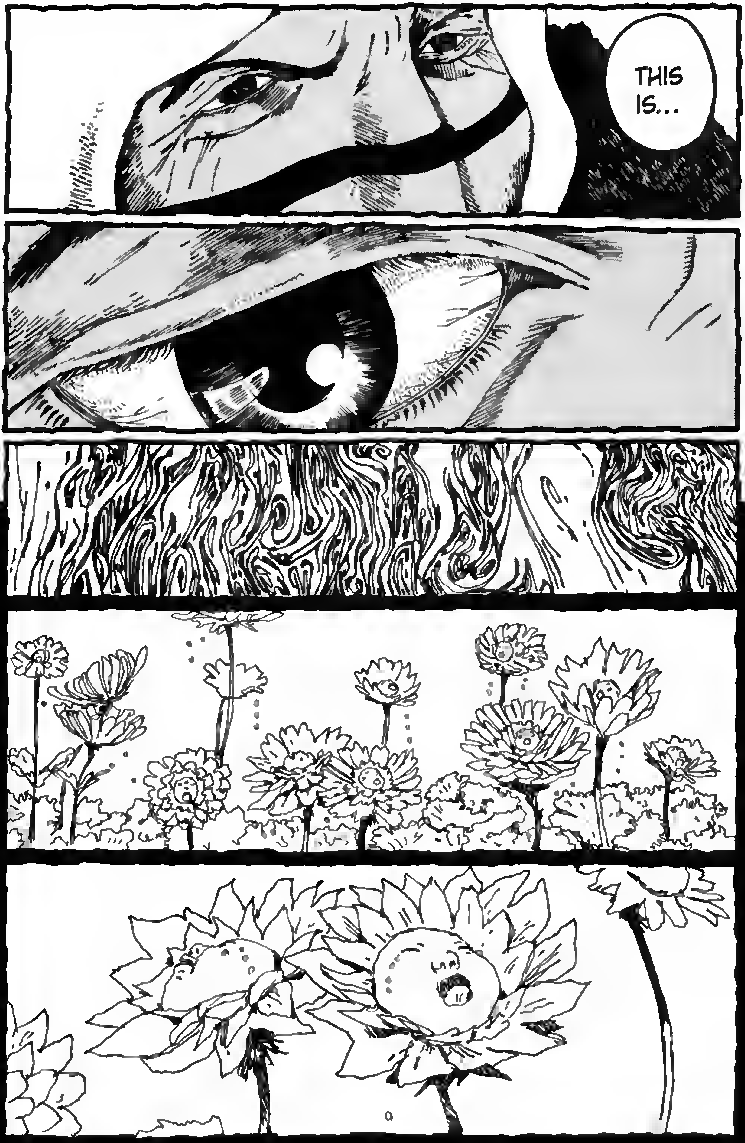
WOOSH
AHH!
LOOK, THUNDER!
RRRRRRR
THIS IS GOD'S VIEW!!
THE REASON YOU SEEK MY APPROVAL LIKE THIS. .

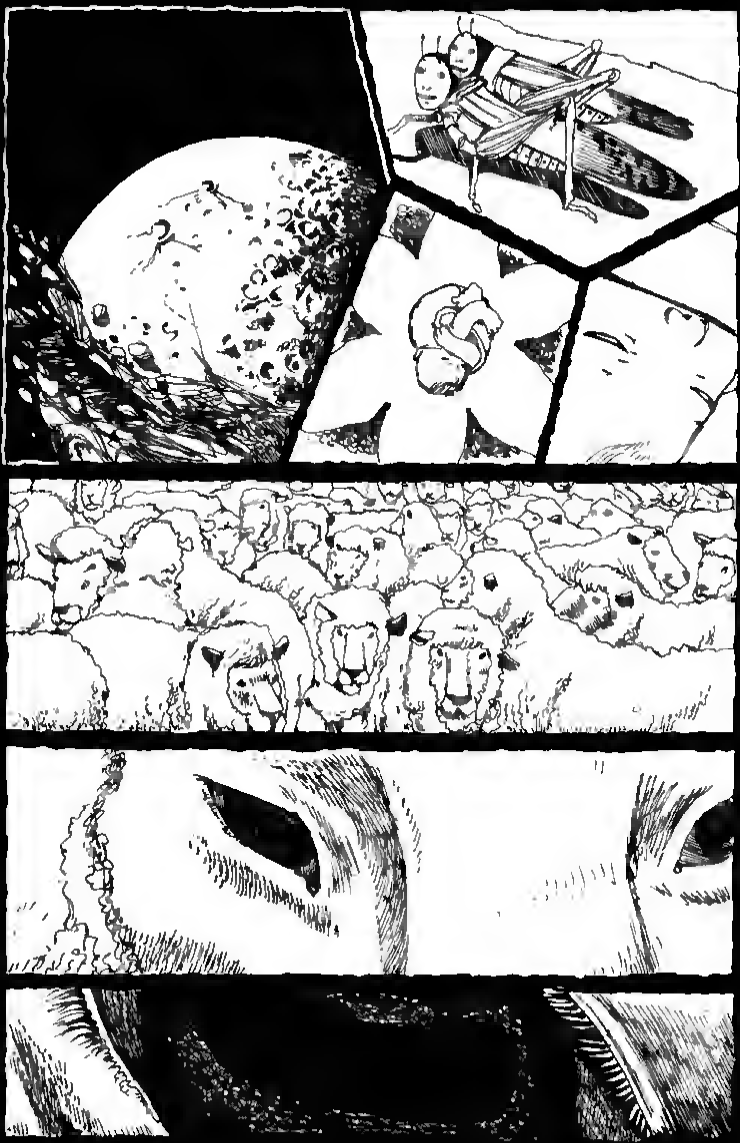

...IS BECAUSE I MADE YOU TO BE LIKE THIS.
SO YOU WOULD HAVE A DEEP-SEATED FEAR OF PAPA.
FWOOSH
IN FACT, NEARLY ALL OF YOUR ACTIONS REVOLVE AROUND THIS FEAR!!
EVEN IF YOU CAN KILL THE OTHERS, YOU CAN'T SHOOT ME.
EVEN THOUGH YOU'VE BETRAYED ME, YOU STILL SEEK MY APPROVAL.
...
IN FACT, YOU CAN'T EVEN HATE ME...
IT'S ALMOST AS IF YOU'VE BEEN CURSED.


GO, YURI.
...
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE.
BY THE WAY, I LIKE THE TURKEY YOU CHOSE.
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.
...

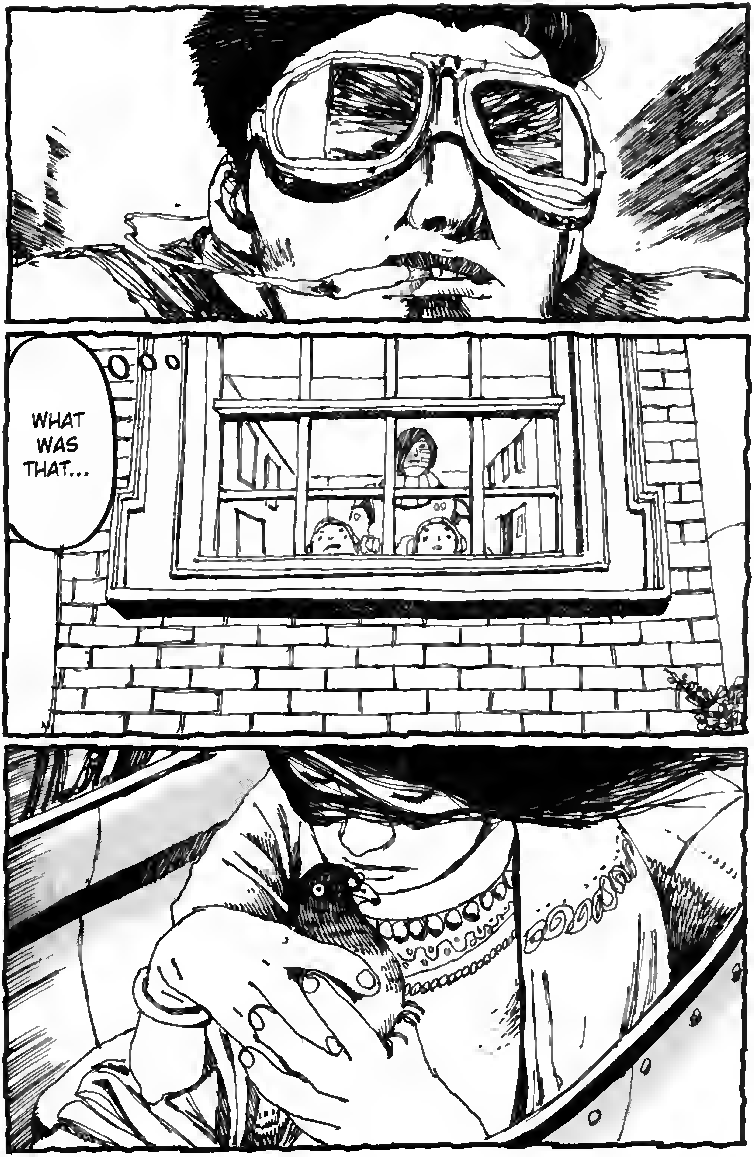


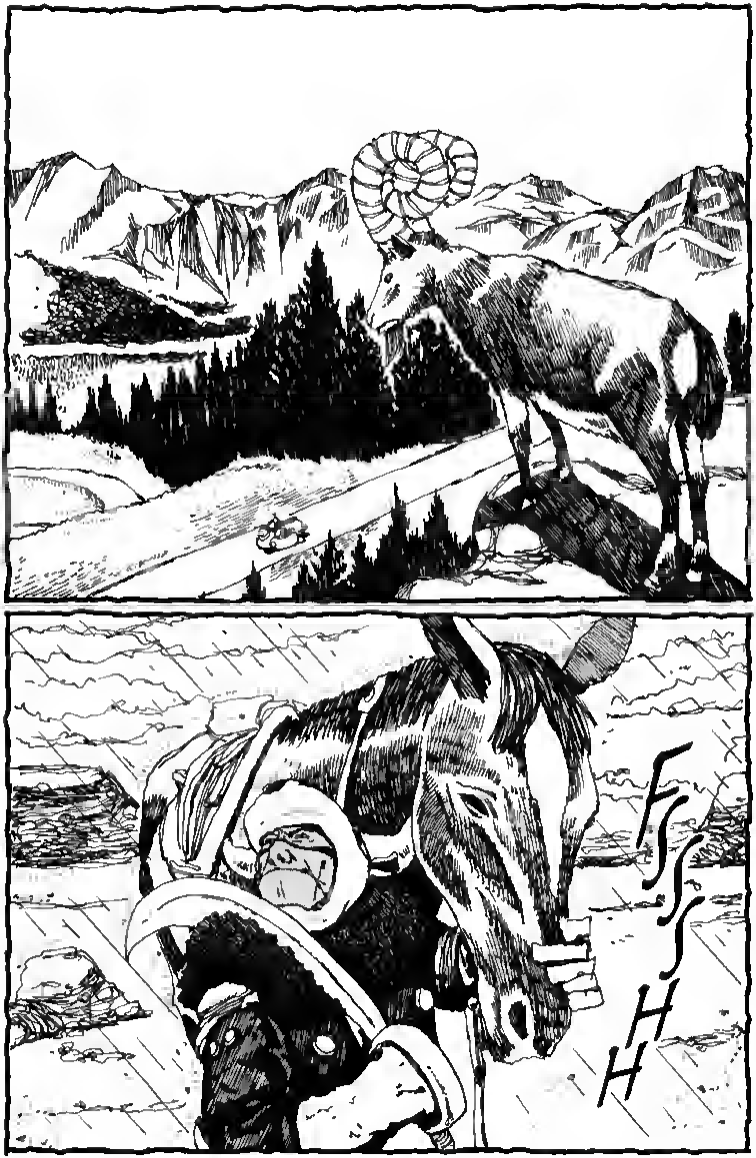
KLOP
SLISH!!
HEEH
!?!
AHH!
WHAT DEEP EMOTION!


THIS IS...



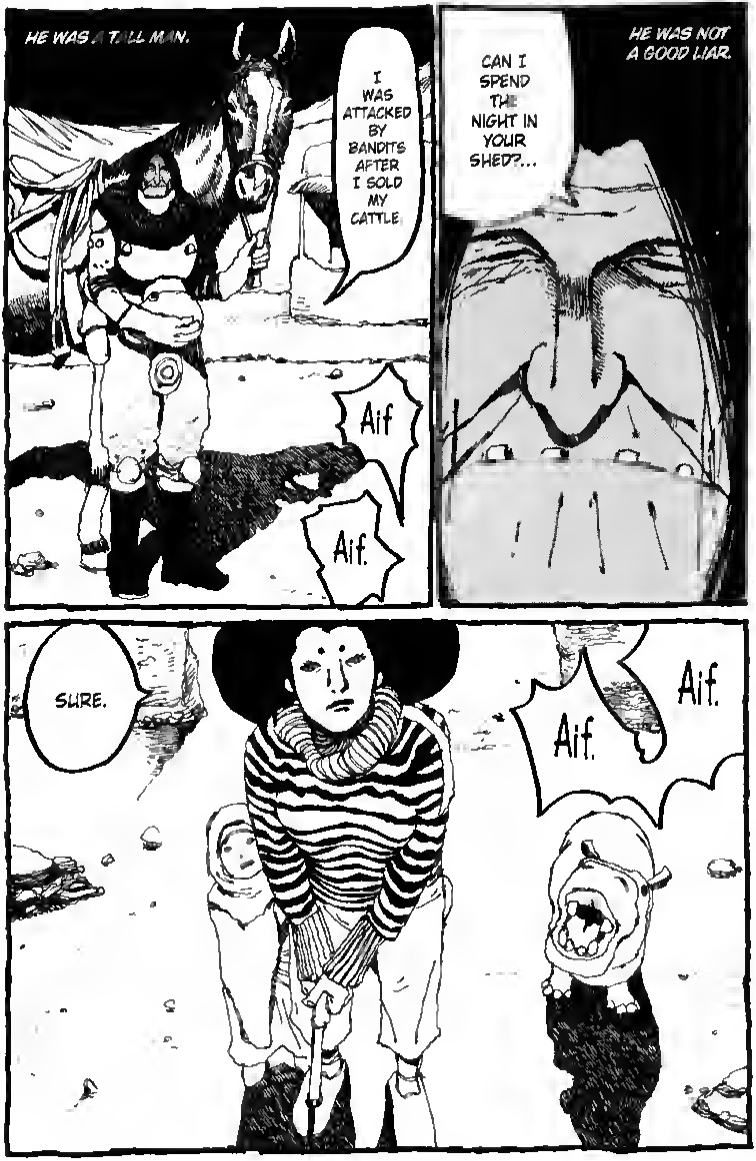
VRROOOM
WHAT IN THE WORLD WAS THAT?
IT'S GONE AGAIN.
IT'S LEFT.
IT WASN'T ANGER.. NOR WAS IT SADNESS
LIKE A CHILD'S VIEW..

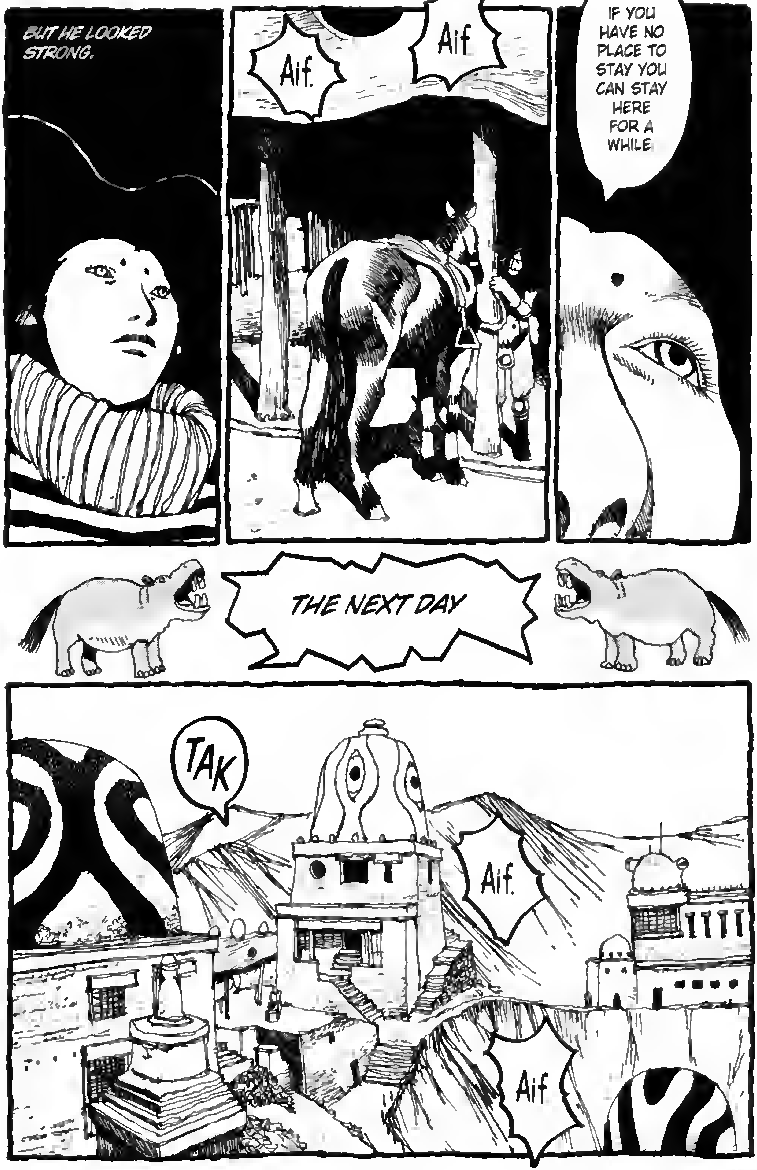

WHAT WAS THAT...



Let's go to chapter 7!!

chapter 7•village

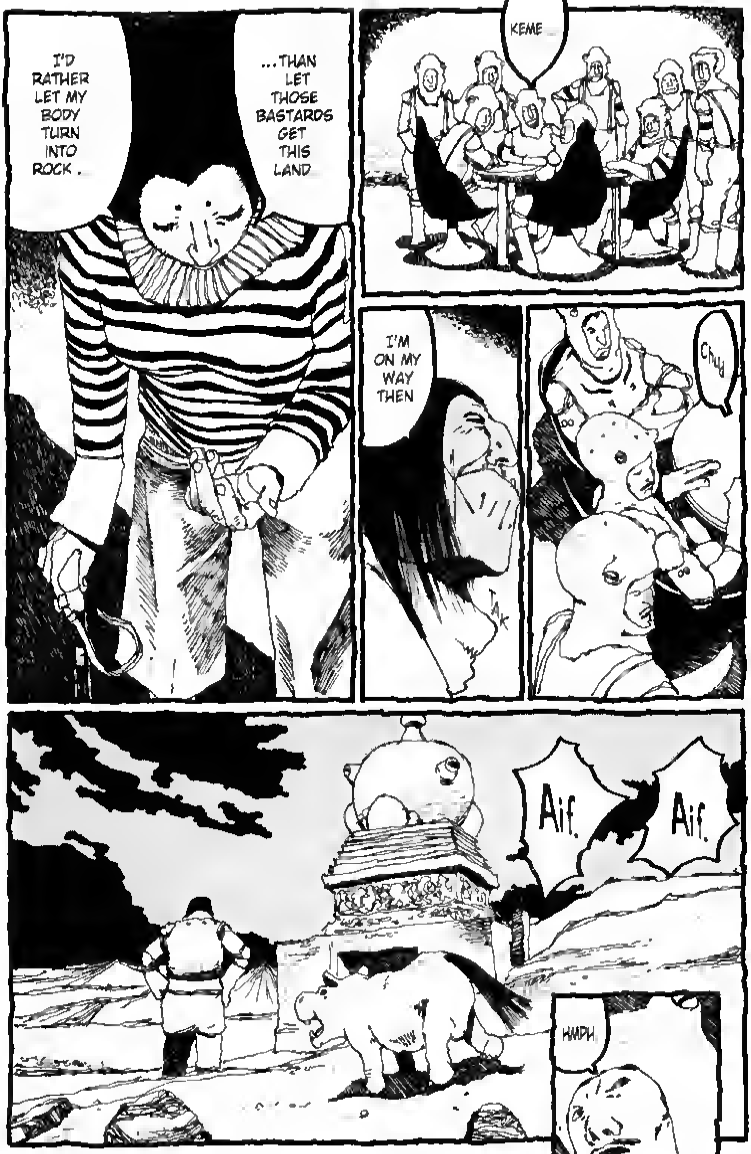

HE WAS A TALL MAN.
I WAS ATTACKED BY BANDITS AFTER I SOLD MY CATTLE.
Aif
Aif.
HE WAS NOT A GOOD LIAR.
CAN I SPEND THE NIGHT IN YOUR SHED?...
SURE.
Aif.
Aif.

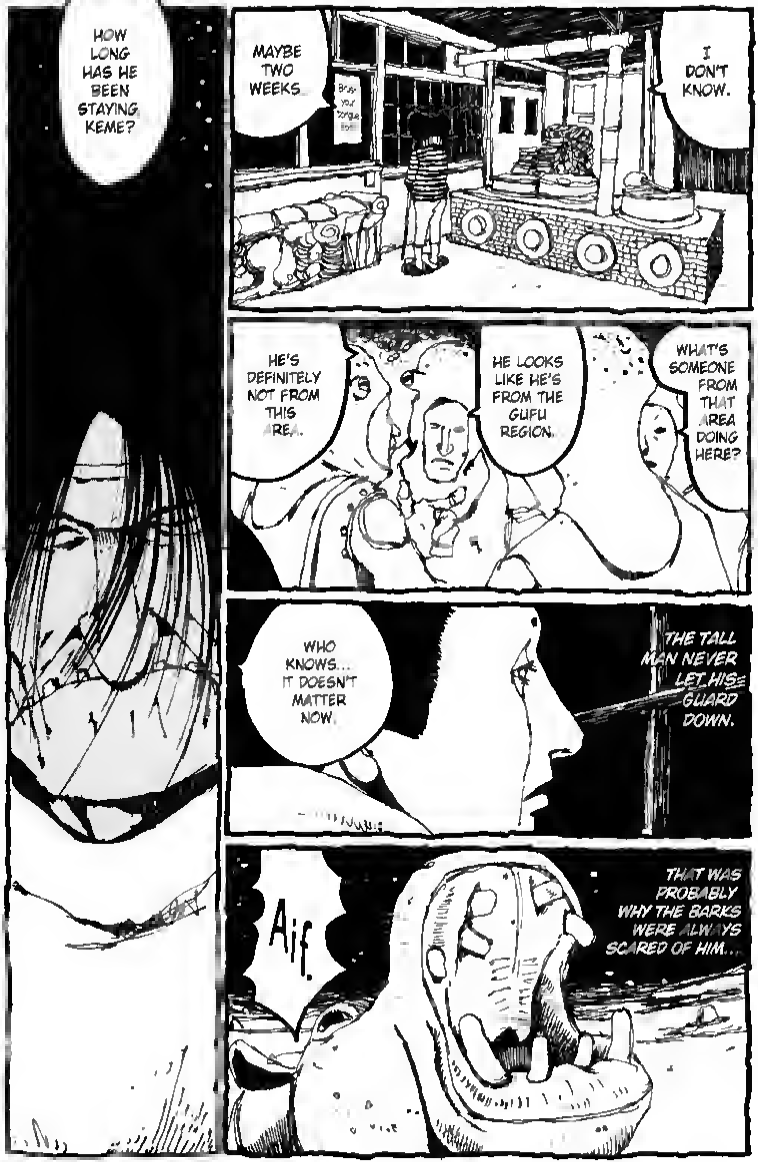

BUT HE LOOKED STRONG.
Aif.
Aif.
IF YOU HAVE NO PLACE TO STAY YOU CAN STAY HERE FOR A WHILE.
THE NEXT DAY
TAK
Aif.
Aif

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP ME CHOP WOOD?
Aif
Aif
Aif.
Aif.
HM
Aif
Aif.
...
I AM DONE, MA'AM.
Aif
I WILL REPAIR YOUR ROOF LEAK NOW
Aif.
...
HM.
Aif

ARE YOU NOT WELL?
HM?
OH...IT'S JUST THE LOCAL DISEASE.
IT'S CALLED THE ROCK DISEASE. YOUR BODY GROWS STIFF AND YOU DIE IN SIX MONTHS.
YOU CAN CURE IT BY EATING BOILED LAUGHING MUSHROOMS
THEY GROW IN DANGEROUS PLACES SO NO ONE COMES NEAR THEM.
MY HUSBAND DIED TRYING TO RETRIEVE SOME.
HMMM--
Ha ha
Hee hee
THE MAN DID NOT INQUIRE FURTHER

BUT THEN WE'RE BASICALLY KILLING KEME
WELL, NO. IT'S JUST THAT THEY WON'T GIVE US ANY LAUGHING MUSHROOMS IF WE DON'T DO THIS.
THAT'S RIGHT. THEY'LL WANT A SHARE OF THIS LAND.
SO WE'LL SELL OFF OUR LIVESTOCK AND WITH THAT MONEY...
THEY HAVE PLENTY OF MONEY.
THEN WE'LL FIGHT THEM...
DON'T BE STUPID. THEY HAVE GUNS.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.


I'D RATHER LET MY BODY TURN INTO ROCK.
...THAN LET THOSE BASTARDS GET THIS LAND
KEME
I'M ON MY WAY THEN
Chuu
Aif.
Aif.
HMPH

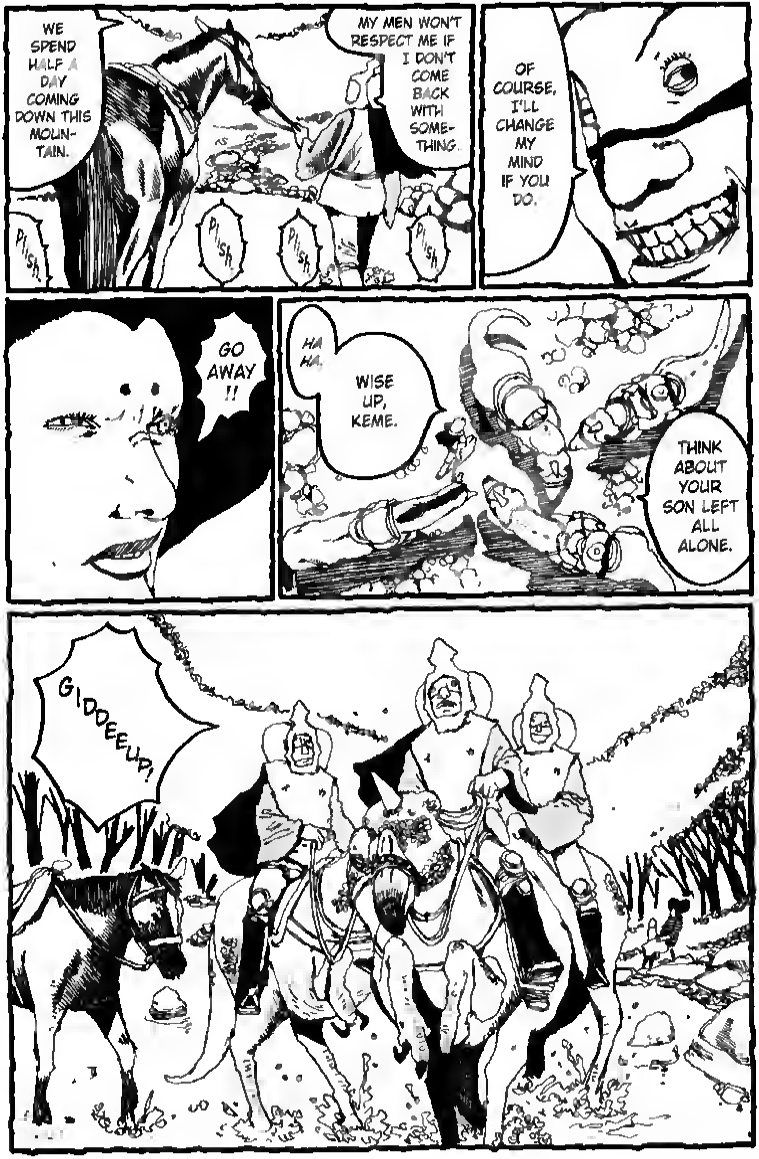

HOW LONG HAS HE BEEN STAYING KEME?
MAYBE TWO WEEKS.
I DON'T KNOW.
HE'S DEFINITELY NOT FROM THIS AREA.
HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S FROM THE GUFU REGION.
WHAT'S SOMEONE FROM THAT AREA DOING HERE?
WHO KNOWS... IT DOESN'T MATTER NOW.
THE TALL MAN NEVER LET HIS GUARD DOWN.
Aif.
THAT WAS PROBABLY WHY THE BARKS WERE ALWAYS SCARED OF HIM...

HER SON TAM BECAME ATTACHED TO HIM
EVERY NIGHT THE MAN WOULD TELL HIM STORIES ABOUT HORSES AND THE STARS.
Aif.
Aif.
BUT EVEN THEN...
Aif.
THE MAN NEVER LET HIS GUARD DOWN.

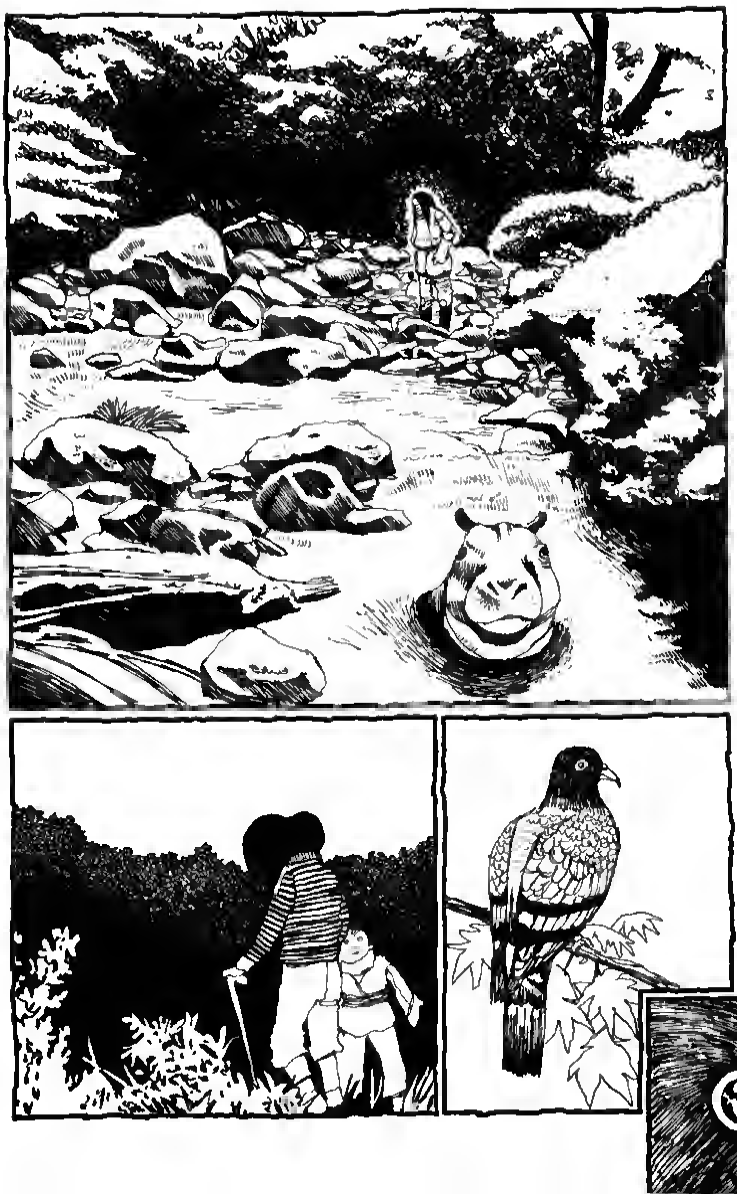
THEY FINALLY CAME
PLOD
PLOD
PLOD
PLOD
PLOD
PLOD
Aif.
Aif.
Aif.
HELLO, KEME
ARE YOU GOING TO FORK OVER YOUR LAND, YOU IDIOT?
Aif.
Aif.

Aif.
OF COURSE, WE WOULDN'T WANT TO TAKE IT AWAY FROM YOU.
FLIP
Aif.
THAT'S RIGHT.
WE'RE BUSINESS-MEN.
Hee hee
GET OFF MY LAND.
YOUR BITCHI-NESS IS SO CHAR-MING.
FP.
!
Aif.
HEY, I HEARD YOU'RE A COWBOY.
WE'VE BEEN HEARING ABOUT YOU.
Aif.

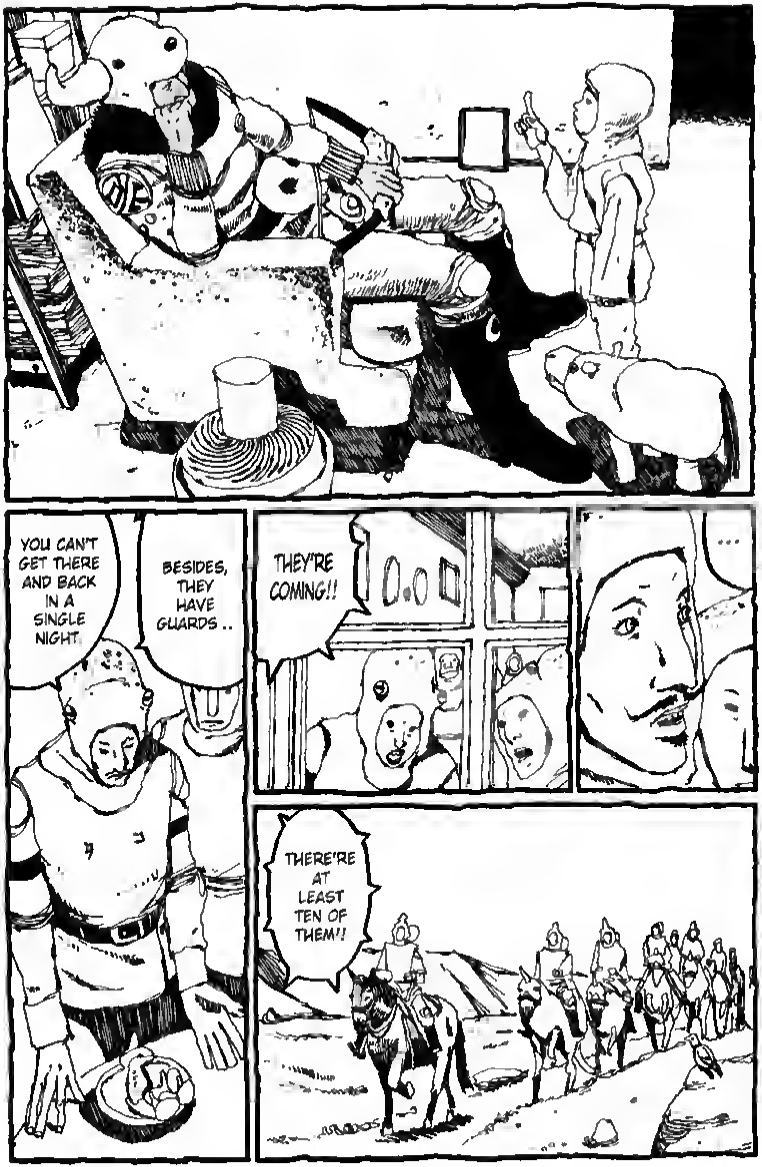
WOW, IS THAT A REAL HORSE?
Aif.
I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE BEFORE.
HE'S A GUEST. LEAVE HIM ALONE, GUS
Aif.
GIVE IT TO ME.
HAH, YOU MUST BE JOKING.
CHA-KING.
NOW, WHY'D I BE JOKING? YOU JERK.
GIVE IT TO ME
HMM.
Aif.
GUS!!
Aif.


WE SPEND HALF A DAY COMING DOWN THIS MOUNTAIN.
MY MEN WON'T RESPECT ME IF I DON'T COME BACK WITH SOMETHING.
PLISH.
PLISH
PLISH
PLISH
OF COURSE, I'LL CHANGE MY MIND IF YOU DO.
GO AWAY !!
HA HA.
WISE UP, KEME.
THINK ABOUT YOUR SON LEFT ALL ALONE.
GIDDEEUP!

I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR HORSE...
OH NO. IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
WHAT ABOUT THE POLICE!?
BUT HOW DO THEY HAVE GUNS?
THEY MAKE THEM.
I HEARD THEY EVEN HAVE THEIR OWN FACTORY.
HUH. YOU'RE REALLY SHELTERED.
...
THEY ONLY OPERATE IN THE CENTER OF THE CITY...
IT'S DIFFER-ENT OUT HERE
THEY TOSSED MY HUSBAND INTO THE BOTTOM OF THE CANYON
THE POLICE DIDN'T EVEN LOOK INTO IT. THEY CLAIMED IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.
THAT'S THE LAW OF THIS LAND.



Ha ha ha
Hee hee hee
WHAT'S GOING ON?
HEE HEE HEE
HA HA
HA HA HA
LAUGHING MUSHROOMS!!
I'M SO HAPPY FOR YOU, KEME
WHAT A RELIEF
THANKS
WHAT'S GOING ON?
ASK HIM


YOU CAN'T GET THERE AND BACK IN A SINGLE NIGHT.
BESIDES, THEY HAVE GUARDS..
THEY'RE COMING!!
...
THERE'RE AT LEAST TEN OF THEM!!

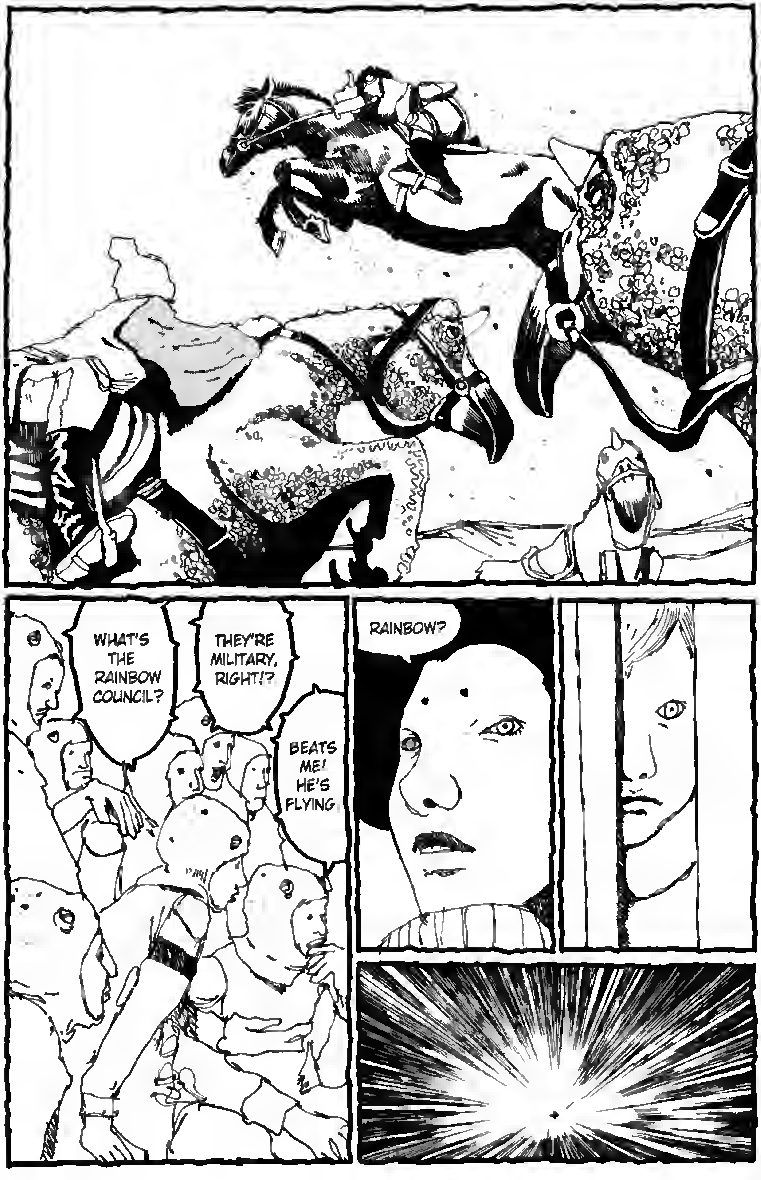
NOW THEN...
YOU STAY HERE, TAM.
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!
HMPH.
SOME-BODY HAD TO DO IT.
Chud

HEY, HEY, HEY!!
FOUR OF OUR MEN WERE KILLED THIS MORNING!! YOU JERKS
I WANT ALL YOUR MEN OUT NOW!!
YOU'RE ALL DEAD NOW!!
HUH?
FWEE

WHAT!?
aaaaaa
AH!
IT'S THE GUY FROM YESTER-DAY.
I'VE SEEN HIM BEFORE!
FSH
DAMN!! WHO IS HE!?
KRICH
VIP
VIP
WHUD
Tak.

ABOVE!!
BRRATTA
FWOOSH
WHUD
Brrrr.
BLAM
Klink
!
Thup.
AIEEE...
FSH...

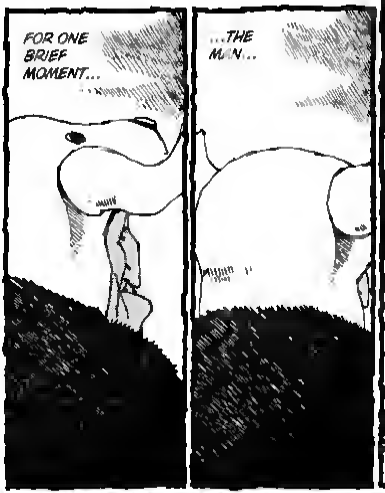
WHUD
I KNOW!!
HE'S ONE OF THE RAINBOW COUNCIL MEMBERS
NUMBER SIX OF THE RAINBOW COUNCIL!!
BLAMM
AIEEE!
FWOM
WHUD


WHAT'S THE RAINBOW COUNCIL?
THEY'RE MILITARY, RIGHT!?
BEATS ME! HE'S FLYING
RAINBOW?

ARGH.
SLISH
I'M SORRY, THUNDER ...
Whud..
..FOR LETTING THOSE IDIOTS RIDE YOU
HMPH.
...

I CAN'T, KEME.
WHY DON'T YOU STAY HERE FOR GOOD?
WHY ARE YOU GOING?
IT'S HARD TO GO FISHING WHEN YOU'RE BUSY FENDING OTHERS OFF.
RUMORS THAT I'M HERE WILL SPREAD LIKE WILD FIRE.
MY MEN ARE TAKING CARE OF THEM RIGHT NOW.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THEM.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THEM.
HMMM
THERE'S SOMEONE I NEED TO TAKE CARE OF.

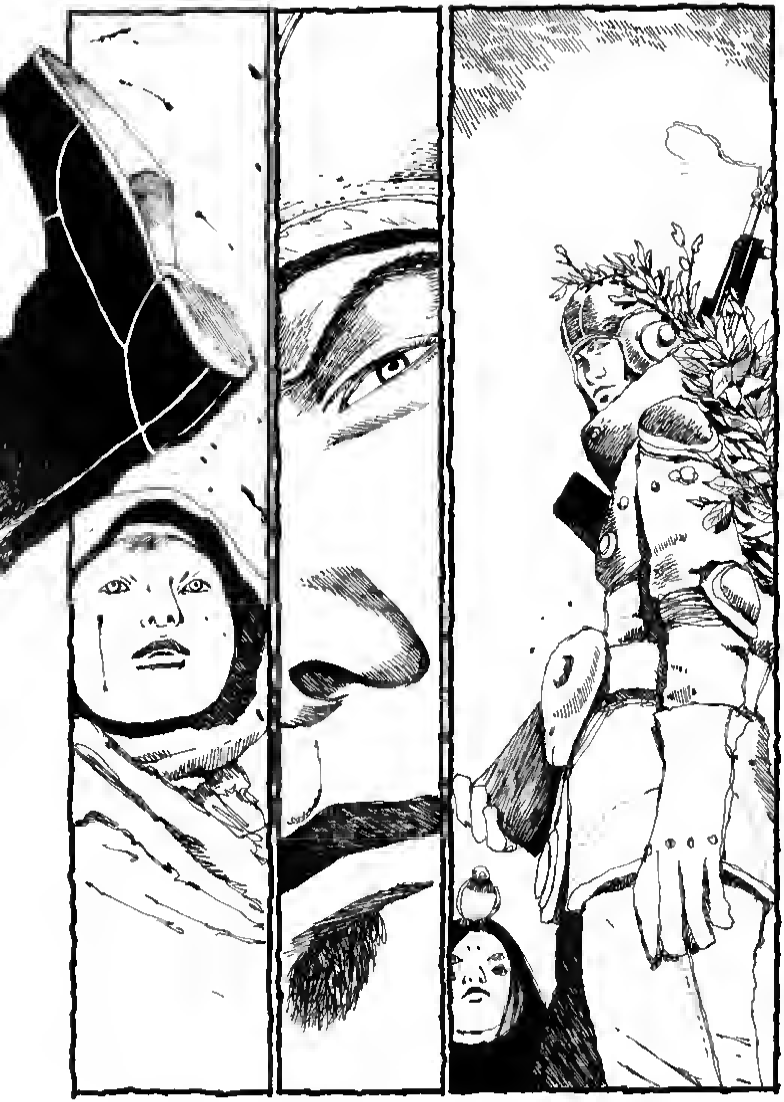
HE'S INCREDIBLY STRONG.
I'LL PROBABLY LOSE
THEN YOU'LL COME BACK AFTER YOU KILL HIM.
I APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT ...
...BUT I'M NOT THE KIND OF PERSON YOU THINK I AM.
COME ON, TAM.
LET'S TAKE ONE LAST RIDE WITH THUNDER.
I'LL BE WAITING.
I'LL BE WAITING, OKAY!?
KLOP.


FOR ONE BRIEF MOMENT...
...THE MAN...

FWIP
FWIP
FWIP

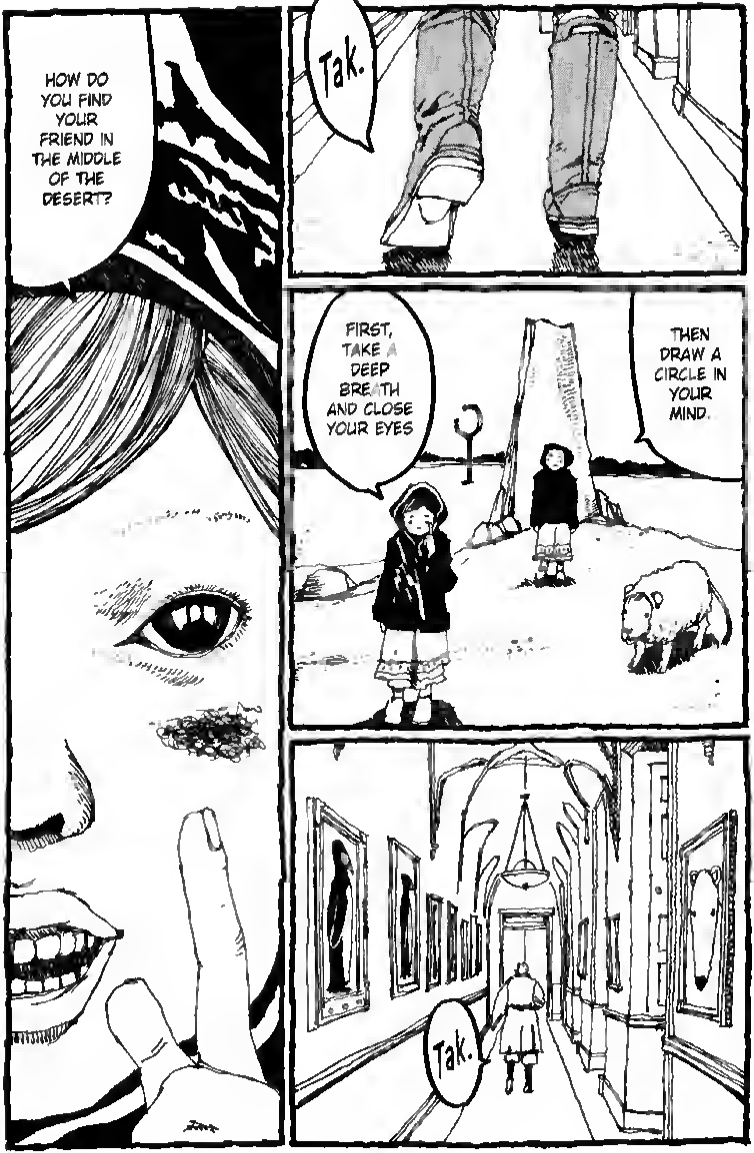
WHEN SPRING COMES, THIS AREA IS COVERED WITH CLOUD FLOWERS.
YOU CAN'T EVEN SEE THE ROCK UNDERNEATH ANYMORE
WELL, THAT'S IMPRES-SIVE.
CLOUD FLOWER
YOU CAN SELL THEM
THAT'S RIGHT. SO WE'LL BE PICKING THEM.
YOU'LL HELP US, RIGHT?
HMM
THEN IN THE SUMMER, THE FLOCKS OF COW BIRDS...
BLAMMMMMM

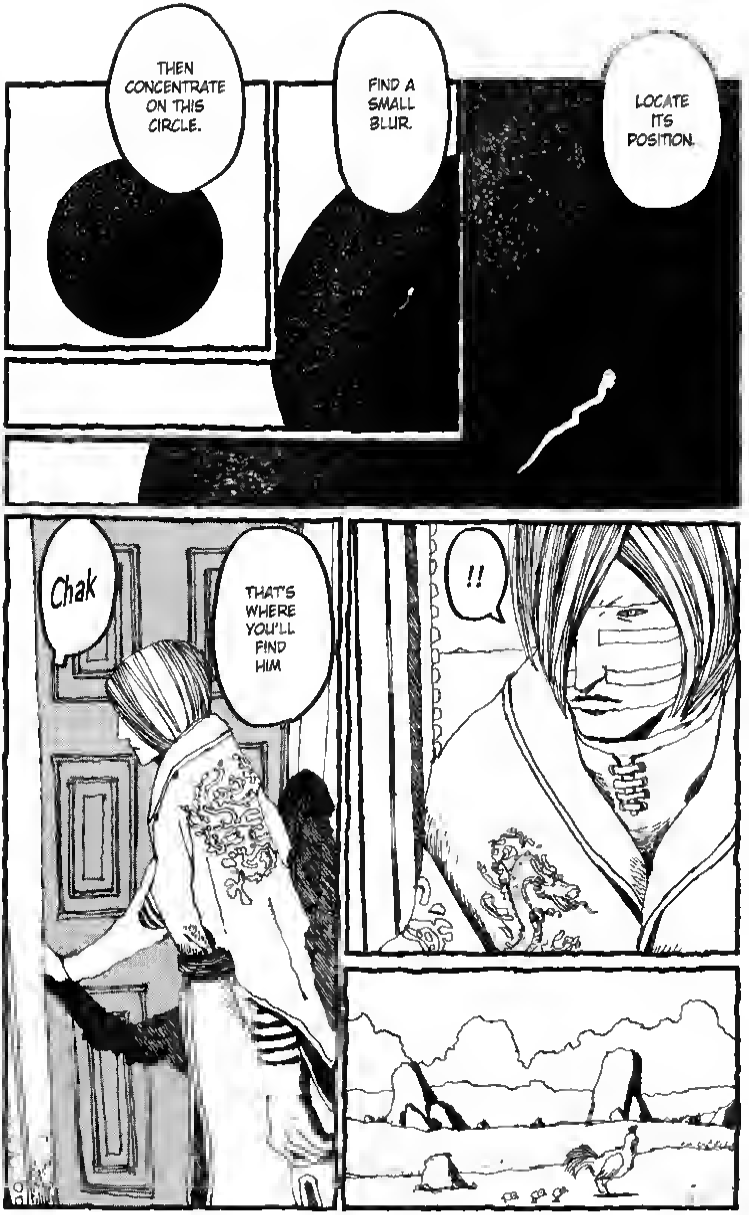
WHAT..
..WAS THAT SOUND..
HIS NAME...

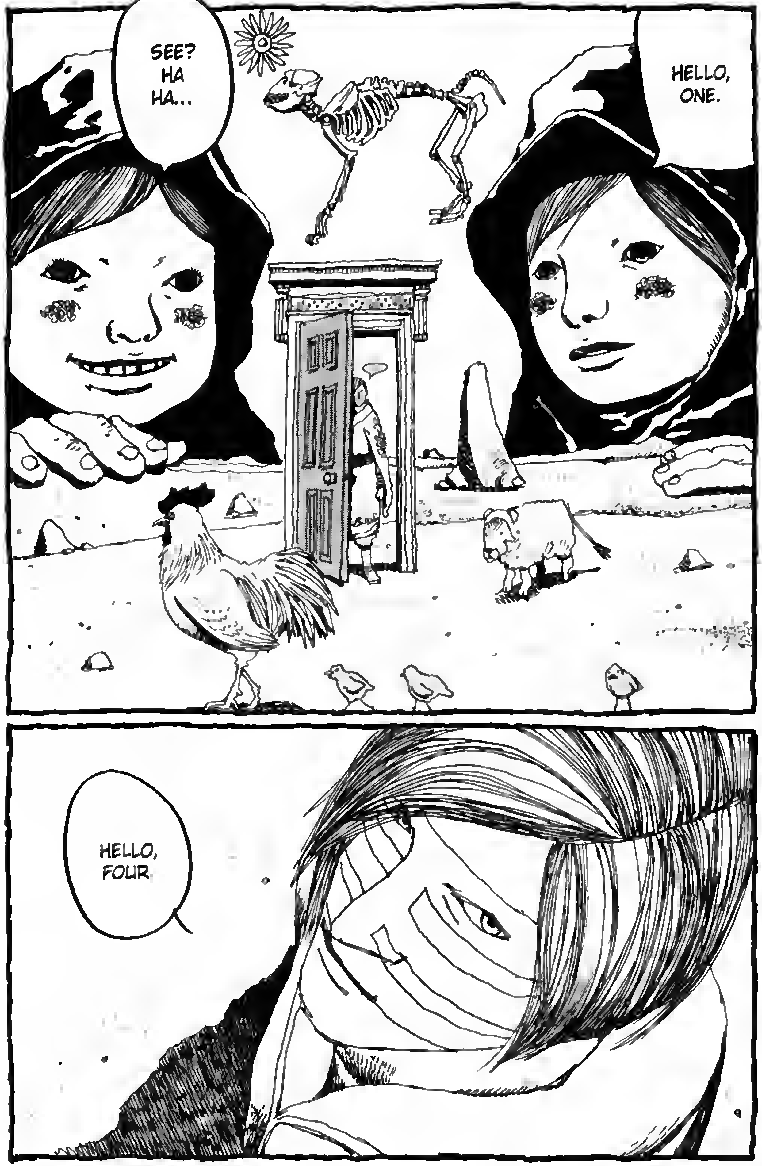


Let's go to chapter 8!!

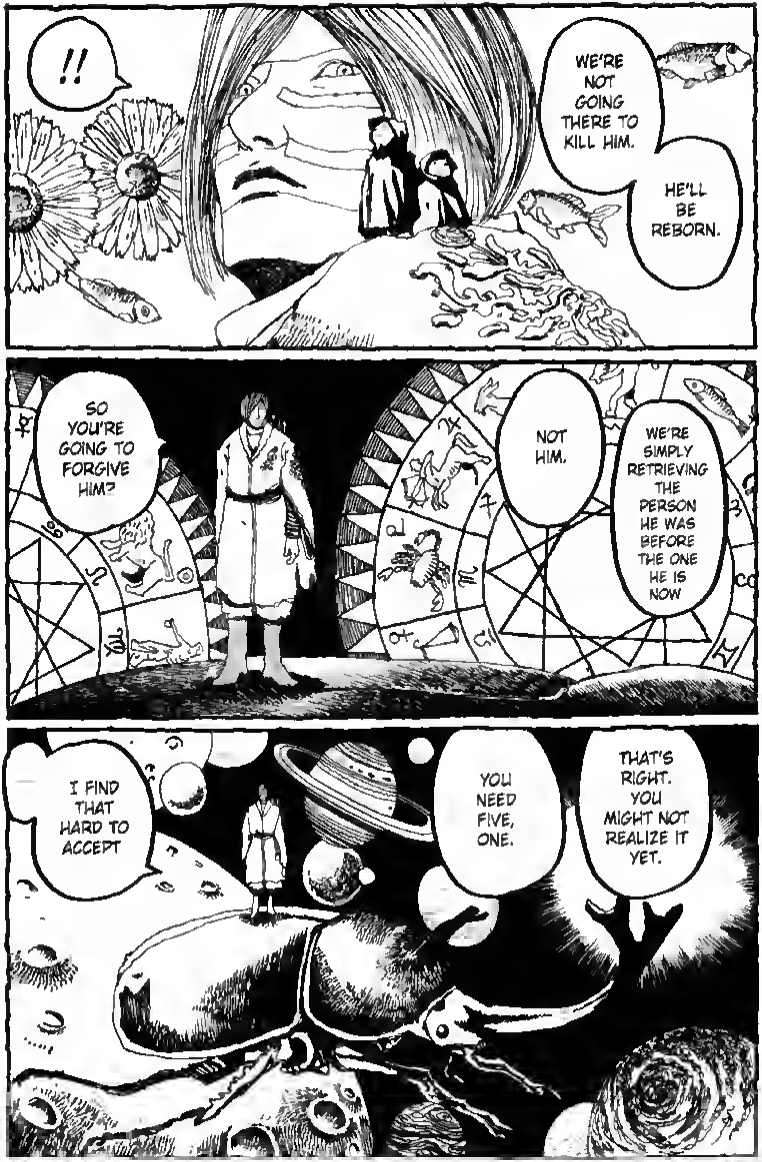
chapter 8•park

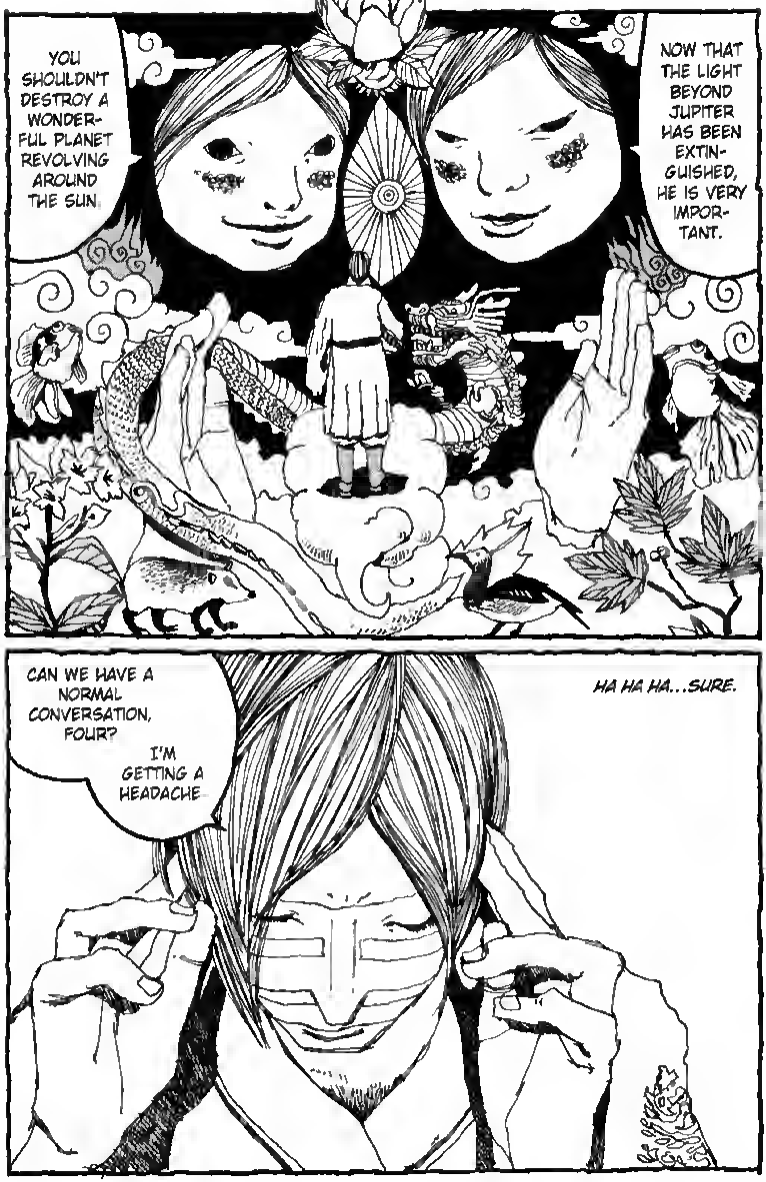

HOW DO YOU FIND YOUR FRIEND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT?
Tak.
FIRST, TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND CLOSE YOUR EYES
THEN DRAW A CIRCLE IN YOUR MIND.
Tak.


LOCATE ITS POSITION.
FIND A SMALL BLUR.
THEN CONCENTRATE ON THIS CIRCLE.
!!
THAT'S WHERE YOU'LL FIND HIM
Chak

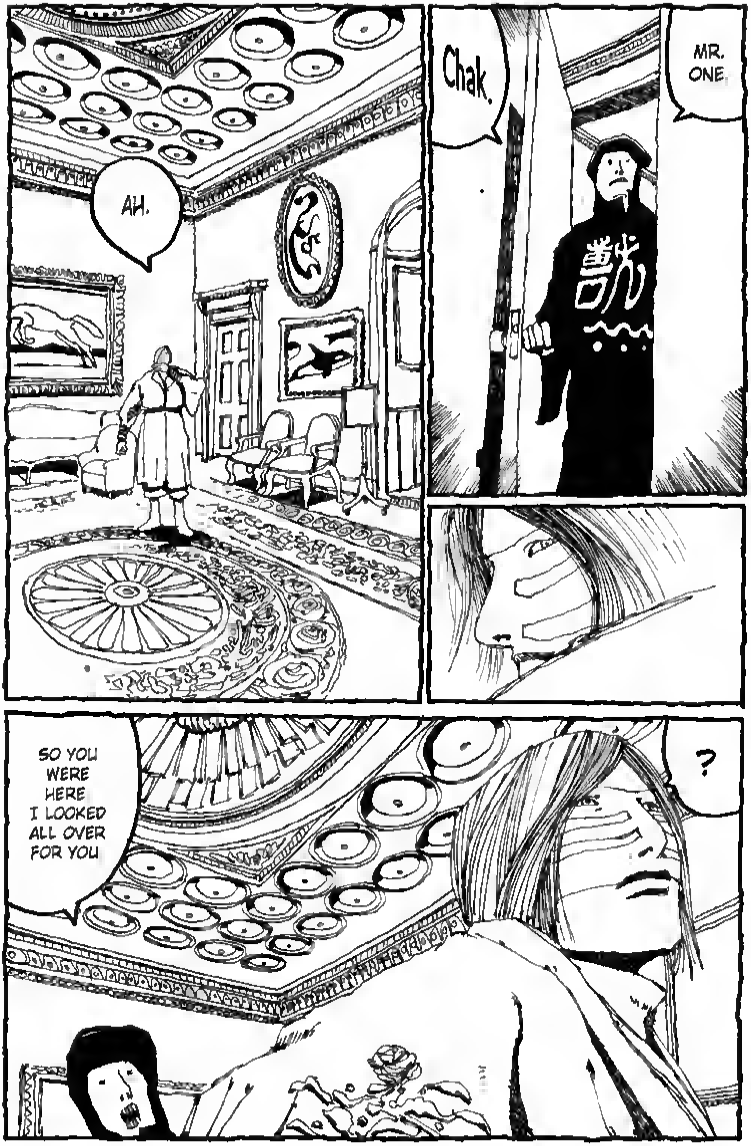

SEE? HA HA...
HELLO, ONE.
HELLO, FOUR.

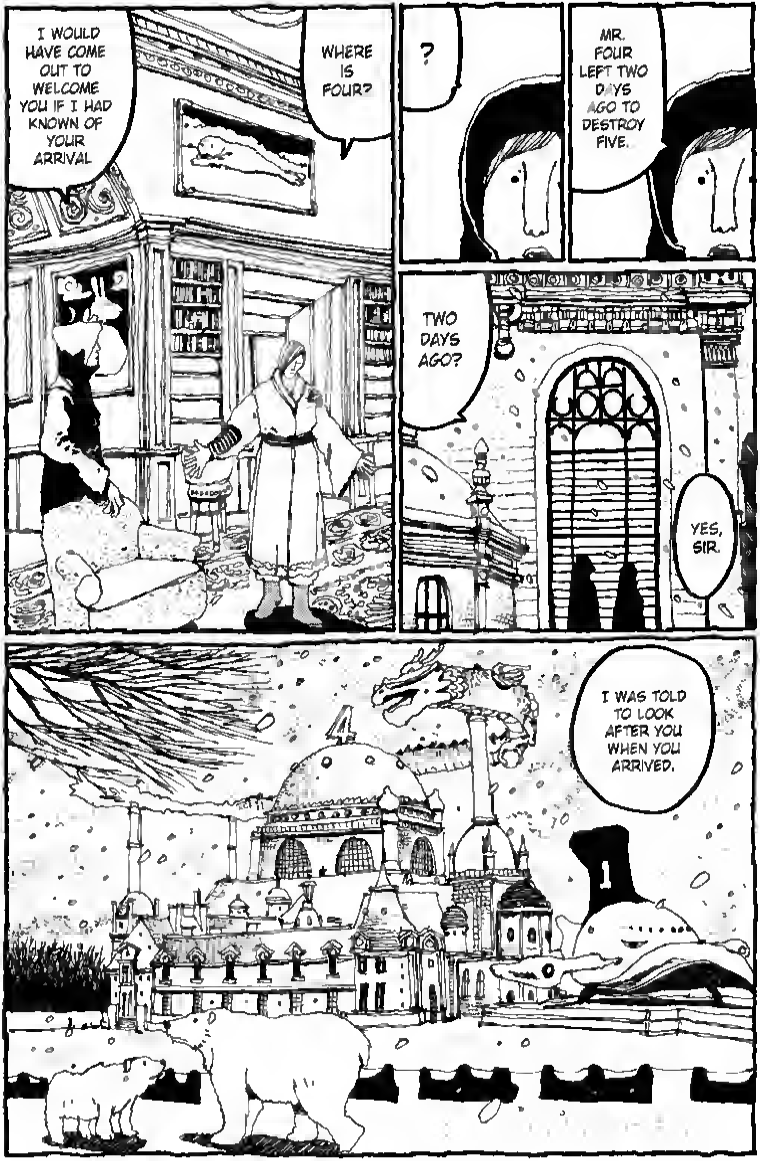
I REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO SEND YOU TWO.
WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR REUNION WITH FIVE.
I DIDN'T EXPECT SIX TO BE SO EASILY KILLED.
SIX WAS HAPPY THOUGH.
THE EMOTION HE PROJECTED RIGHT BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FROM THIS WORLD WAS VERY WARM....
SIX
KILL FIVE BEFORE THIS PLANET IS DOOMED.
NOT A GOOD IDEA, ONE.


!!
WE'RE NOT GOING THERE TO KILL HIM.
HE'LL BE REBORN.
SO YOU'RE GOING TO FORGIVE HIM?
NOT HIM.
WE'RE SIMPLY RETRIEVING THE PERSON HE WAS BEFORE THE ONE HE IS NOW
I FIND THAT HARD TO ACCEPT
YOU NEED FIVE, ONE.
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU MIGHT NOT REALIZE IT YET.


YOU SHOULDN'T DESTROY A WONDERFUL PLANET REVOLVING AROUND THE SUN.
NOW THAT THE LIGHT BEYOND JUPITER HAS BEEN EXTINGUISHED, HE IS VERY IMPORTANT.
CAN WE HAVE A NORMAL CONVERSATION, FOUR?
I'M GETTING A HEADACHE
HA HA HA...SURE.

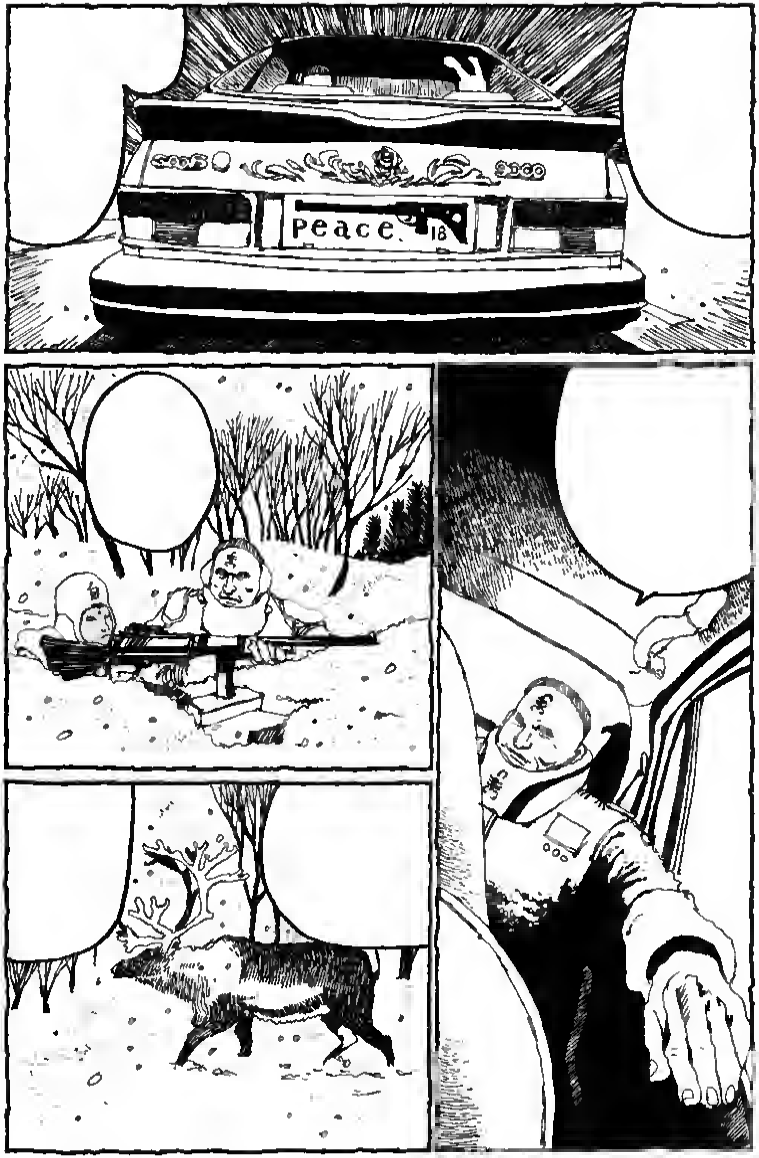
WHAT IF HE REFUSES?
THEN WE'LL CHOP HIM IN HALF.
ONE HALF WE'LL TOSS TO THE SOUTHERN POLAR KILLER WHALES AND THE OTHER TO THE NORTHERN POLAR BEARS
THAT'S SCARY...
THAT'S RIGHT
TRUST US, DEAR ONE.
WE'VE SEEN THIS WORLD FOR NEARLY ONE HUNDRED YEARS.
TWICE AS LONG AS SIX'S LIFE. THREE TIMES YOURS.
HR.

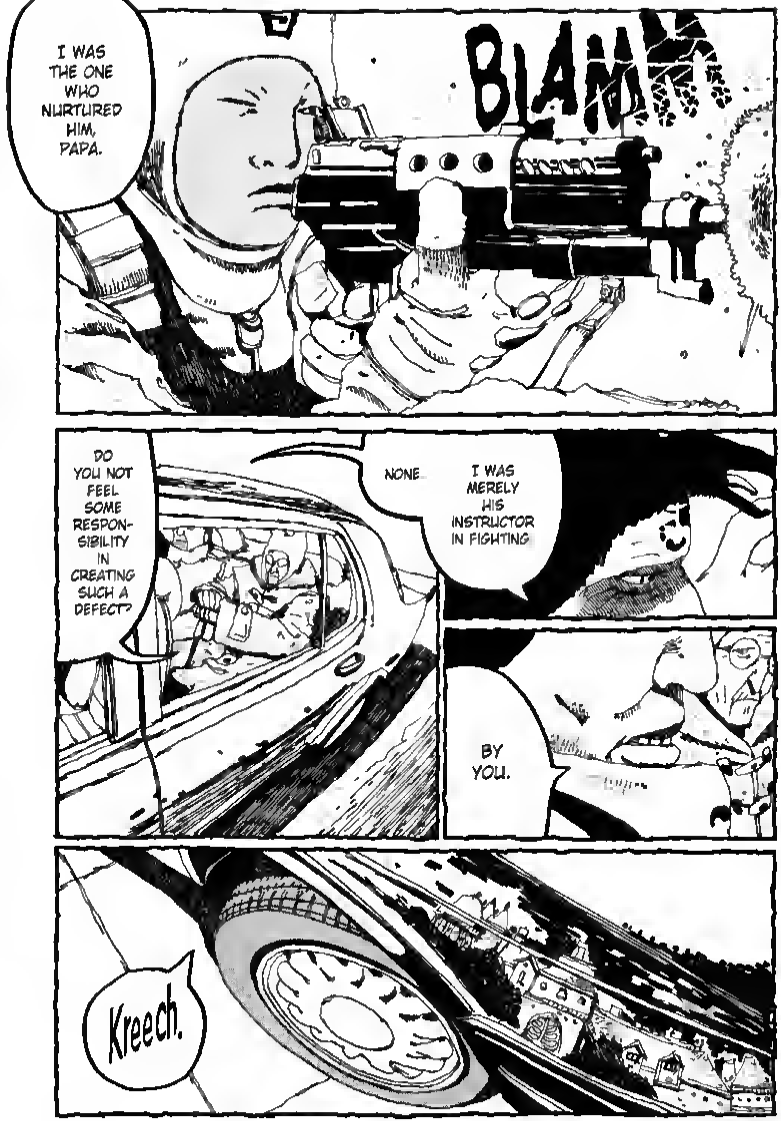

AH.
Chak.
MR. ONE.
SO YOU WERE HERE I LOOKED ALL OVER FOR YOU
?

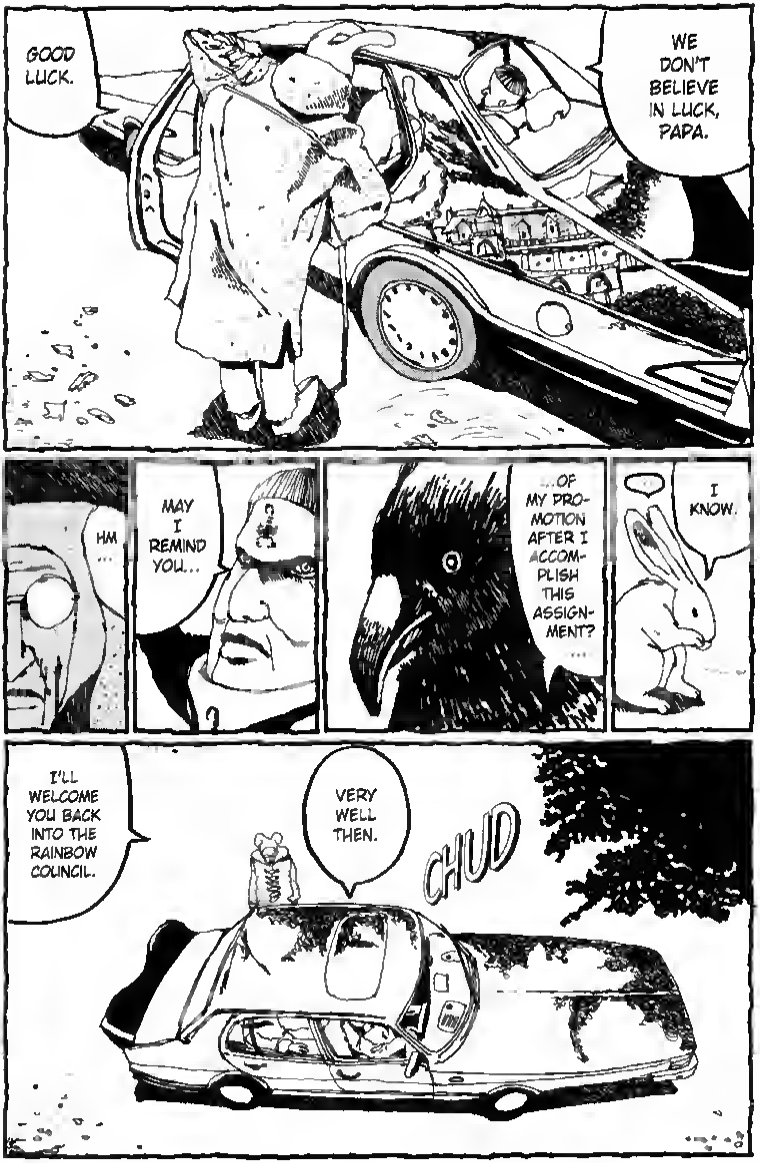

I WOULD HAVE COME OUT TO WELCOME YOU IF I HAD KNOWN OF YOUR ARRIVAL
WHERE IS FOUR?
?
MR. FOUR LEFT TWO DAYS AGO TO DESTROY FIVE.
TWO DAYS AGO?
YES, SIR.
I WAS TOLD TO LOOK AFTER YOU WHEN YOU ARRIVED.

HA HA.
HEE HEE.
SEE YOU.

HOW WILL YOU EXPLAIN MY ASSIGNMENT TO ONE, PAPA?
HE HATES ME AS IF I KILLED HIS PARENTS.
General Victor of the Peacekeeping Forces Battle Squad.
OF COURSE, WE'RE ALL ORPHANS. .
HA HA HA
THE RAINBOW COUNCIL ISN'T IN CHARGE OF FINDING NUMBER FIVE, VICTOR
I SEE...
SO THERE'S NO FAITH IN OUR PRINCE.
YURI (FIVE) IS POWER-FUL

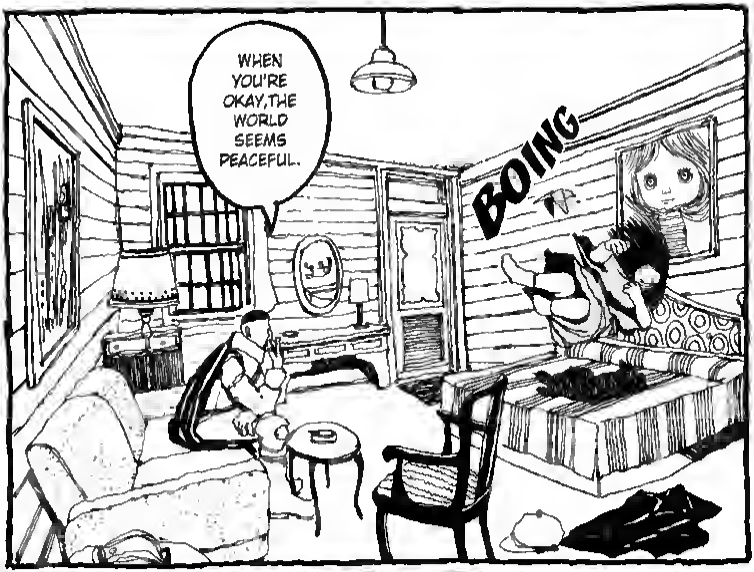

Peace
18


I WAS THE ONE WHO NURTURED HIM, PAPA.
BLAM!
DO YOU NOT FEEL SOME RESPONSIBILITY IN CREATING SUCH A DEFECT?
NONE.
I WAS MERELY HIS INSTRUCTOR IN FIGHTING
BY YOU.
Kreech.

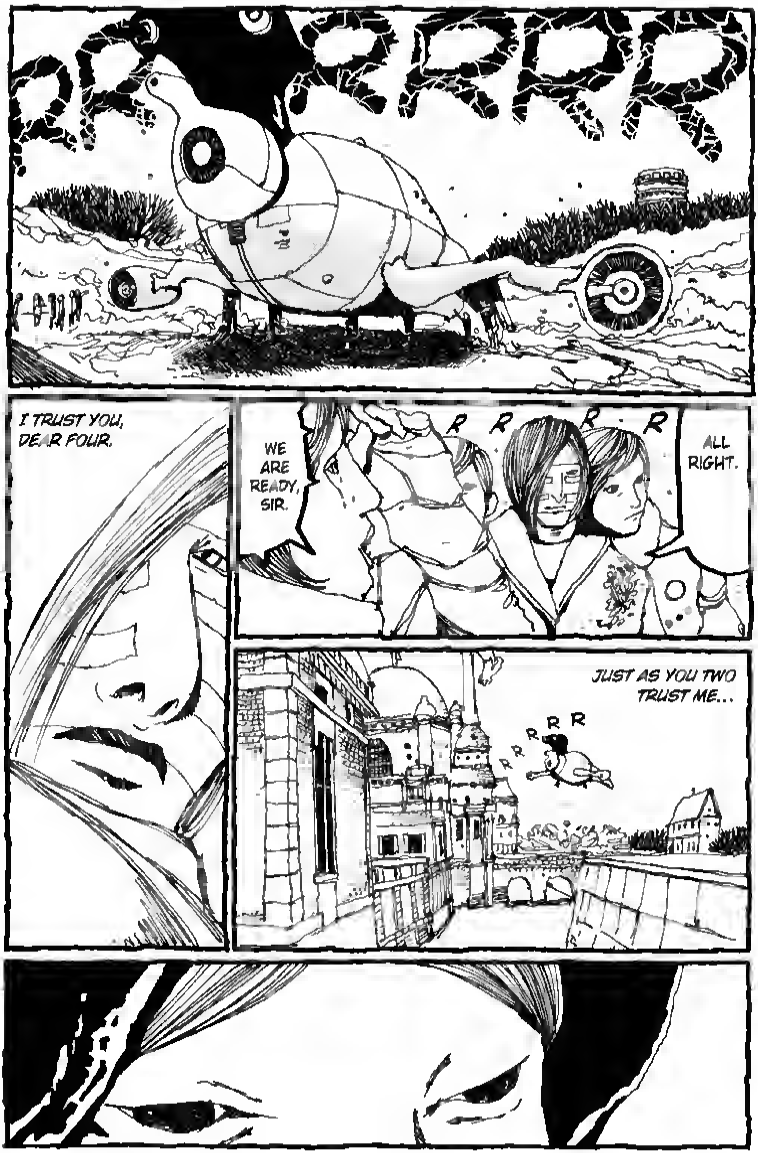

GOOD LUCK.
WE DON'T BELIEVE IN LUCK, PAPA.
HM ...
MAY I REMIND YOU...
...OF MY PROMOTION AFTER I ACCOMPLISH THIS ASSIGNMENT? ...
I KNOW.
I'LL WELCOME YOU BACK INTO THE RAINBOW COUNCIL.
VERY WELL THEN.
CHUD

VRRROOM
HOOOT
GUN-FIGHTERS. . ARE SO DIFFICULT.
HA.

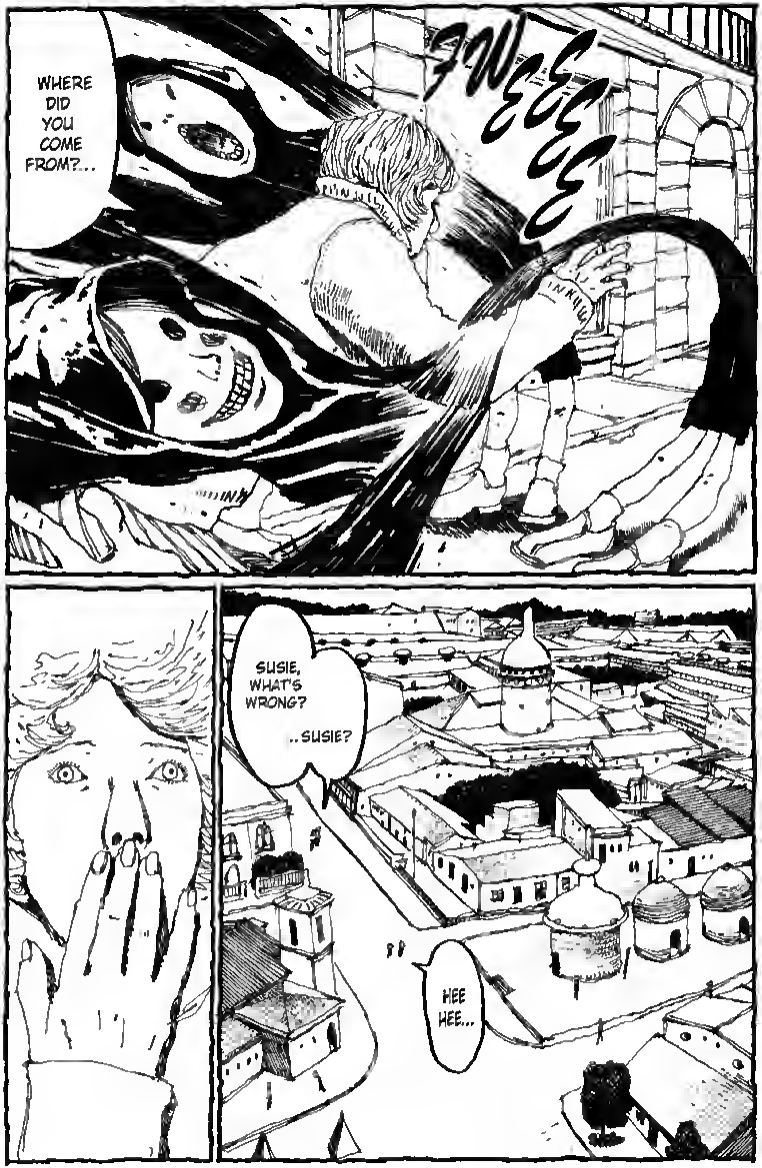
THUM
ARE YOU HAVING FUN, MATROSHKA?
THUM
I'M OKAY.
OKAY...
WELL, THAT'S GOOD...

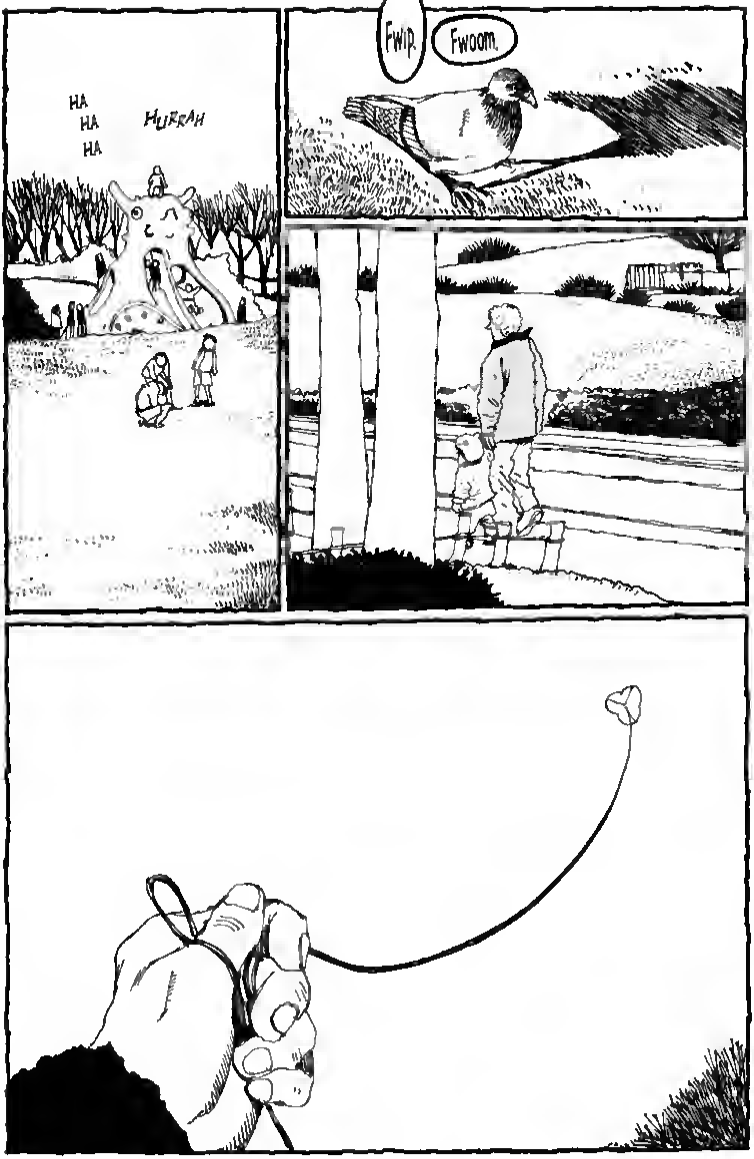

WHEN YOU'RE OKAY, THE WORLD SEEMS PEACEFUL.
BOING

6
5


RRRRRR
I TRUST YOU, DEAR FOUR.
WE ARE READY, SIR.
R R R R
ALL RIGHT.
JUST AS YOU TWO TRUST ME...
R R R R R

DID YOU GET THAT?
YES. FROM ONE.
CATS
Roop
IT'S A NOBLE EMOTION CALLED TRUST.
ITS DEPTH DESERVES OUR RESPONSE
HE IS SUCH A BEAUTIFUL CHILD.
THAT'S RIGHT.
WE CAN DIE FOR HIM.
OH MY.
YOU TWINS ARE SO CUTE!


WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?..
SUSIE, WHAT'S WRONG?
..SUSIE?
HEE HEE...


HA
HA
HA
HURRAH
Fwip.
Fwoom.

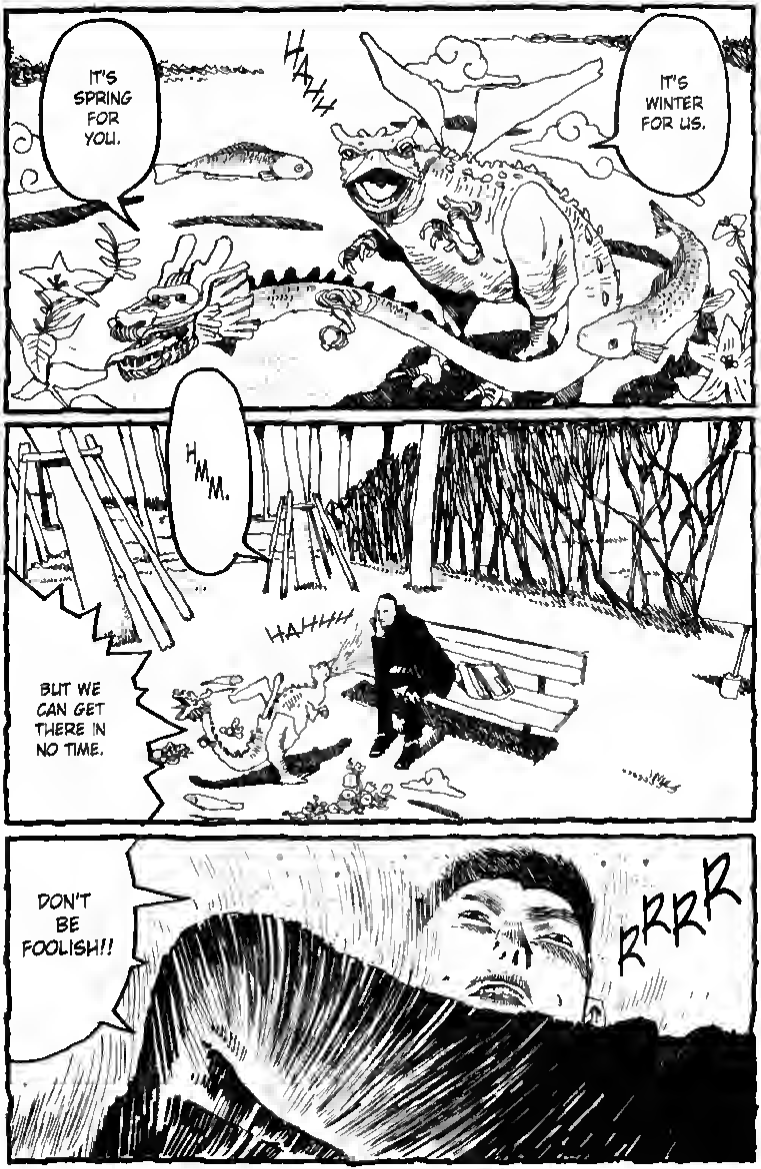
ARE YOU HAVING FUN, MATROSHKA?
I AM.
GOOD...
WELL...
THAT'S BEST.
WHEN YOU'RE HAVING FUN, THE WORLD SHINES.

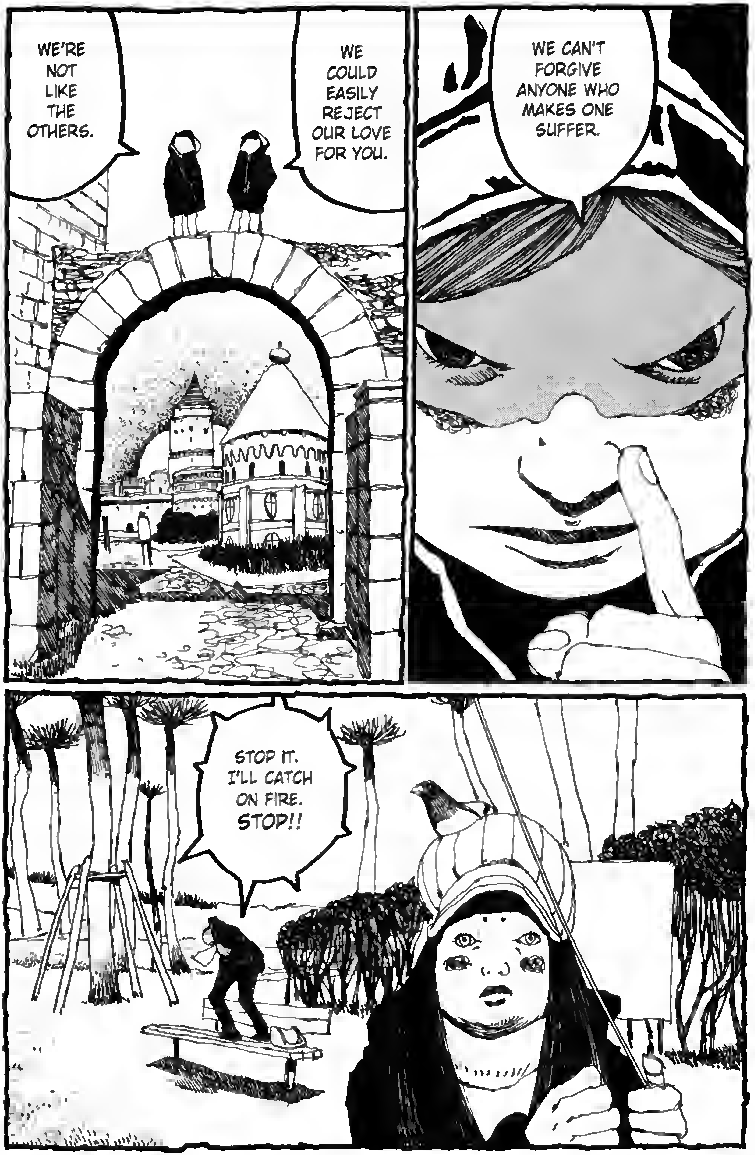
HMM
HMM
IT'S GETTING COLD...
Fip
IS IT SPRING OR FALL HERE?
WHEN YOU MOVE AROUND THIS MUCH IT'S HARD TO TELL THE SEASONS.
HMM
HMM
HMM
HUH?... MY LIGHT.
Fip
!?
Klik.
LIGHT.
RAIN BOW

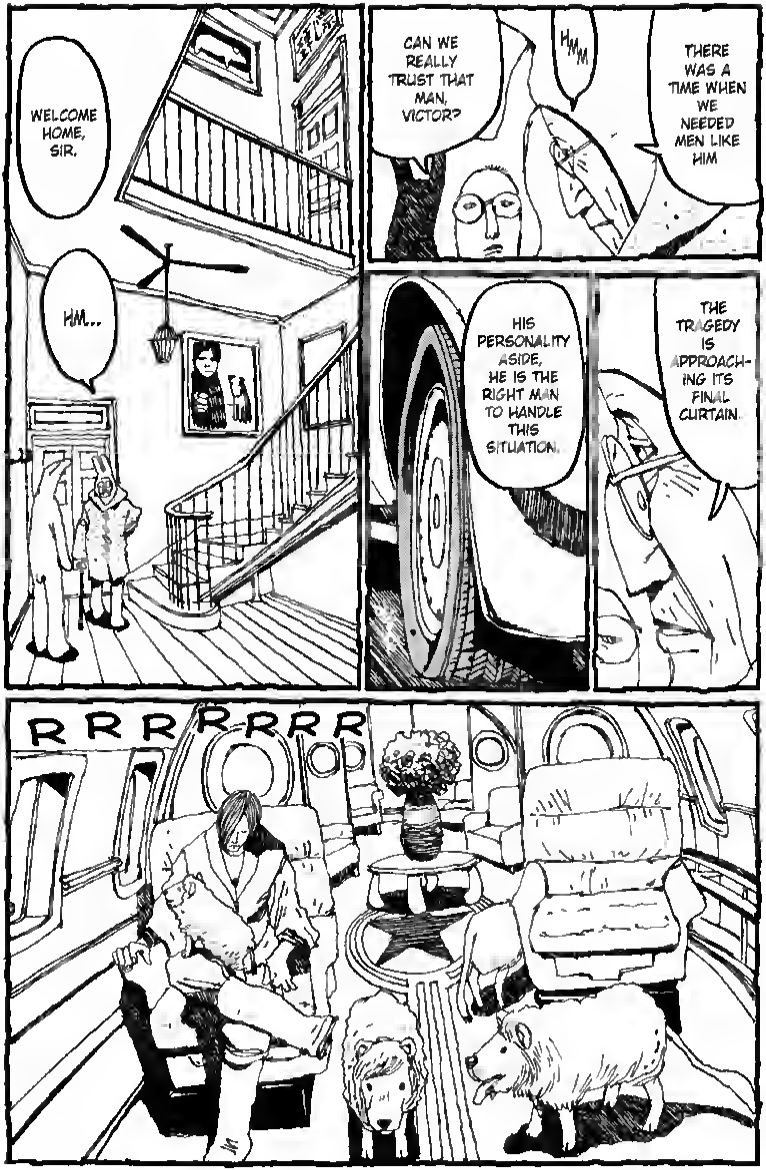
WHY WOULD YOU HAVE SOMETHING LIKE THIS, KID?
YOU'RE NUMBER FIVE, RIGHT?
NOPE.
HEY, THIS WON'T LIGHT MY CIGARETTE..
I'M A FAN OF THE RAIN-BOW COUNCIL.
REEEALLY.
WHY IS IT THE OTHER MEMBERS GET KILLED BY YOU?
I THOUGHT THEY WERE SO STRONG.
THEY'RE PROBABLY INCOMPETENT.

THAT'S NOT TRUE.
HUH.
THEY WERE CONFUSED BECAUSE YOU WERE THEIR OPPONENT.
THAT CAUSED THEM TO HESITATE.
YOU JUST TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THAT, FIVE.
FAH.
SO... IT'S YOU GUYS

VWEEN
HA HA HA.
?
WHAT IS IT?
NOTHING.
WHERE ARE YOU GUYS?
ARE YOU CLOSE?


IT'S SPRING FOR YOU.
HAHH
IT'S WINTER FOR US.
HMM.
HAHHH
BUT WE CAN GET THERE IN NO TIME.
DON'T BE FOOLISH!!
RRRR


WE'RE NOT LIKE THE OTHERS.
WE COULD EASILY REJECT OUR LOVE FOR YOU.
WE CAN'T FORGIVE ANYONE WHO MAKES ONE SUFFER.
STOP IT. I'LL CATCH ON FIRE. STOP!!


WELCOME HOME, SIR.
HM...
CAN WE REALLY TRUST THAT MAN, VICTOR?
HMM
THERE WAS A TIME WHEN WE NEEDED MEN LIKE HIM
HIS PERSONALITY ASIDE, HE IS THE RIGHT MAN TO HANDLE THIS SITUATION.
THE TRAGEDY IS APPROACHING ITS FINAL CURTAIN.
RRRR-RRR

AT LEAST, I HOPE SO...

Let's go to Volume 3!!

No.5
END

NO 5—PART 2

STORY & ART BY TAIYO MATSUMOTO

ENGLISH ADAPTATION BY YUJI ONIKI

Touch-Up Art & Lettering/Susan Daigle-Leach
Design/Izumi Evers
Editor/Alvin Lu

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ABOUT THE ARTIST

Taiyo Matsumoto was born in 1967 in Tokyo. Beginning with his comics publishing debut in 1986 in the highly regarded manga magazine *Afternoon*, Matsumoto went on to become one of the most notable new manga talents of the 1990s. His work is often characterized as a unique mélange of European, American, and Japanese comics art styles. Citing Katsuhiro Otomo's *Domu* as the work that inspired him to become a comics artist, Matsumoto comments, "American comics are powerful and cool. European comics seem very intellectual. And Japanese comics are very light-hearted. If you could combine the best of all three, you could create some really tremendous work. That's my goal." Several of works have been translated into French, while he is best known to the Anglophone world for *Black and White*, published by VIZ. The following is a list of his complete collected works

1990 *Zero*, 2 volumes, boxing manga
1991 *Hanso* ("Flower Man"), 3 volumes, domestic drama
1993 *Tekkonkinkurito* (aka *Black and White*), 3 volumes, published in English by Viz Comics
1993 *Aoi haru* ("Blue Spring"), 1 volume, short stories
1995 *100*, 1 volume, short stories
1996 *Ping Pong*, 5 volumes, ping pong manga
1999 *101*, 1 volume, short stories
2000 *Go Go Monster*, 1 volume, a story about a little boy who befriends a monster
2002 *No. 5*, ongoing, this book